



IN SECTION TWO



## Boxer's death strengthens call for ban

LOUISE JURY  
and DERRICK WHYTE

Scottish boxer James Murray lost his fight for life yesterday, prompting renewed demands for the sport to be banned.

The British Medical Association said society must decide whether to tolerate the "continuing tragic waste of young lives". Mr Murray, 25, became the third British fighter in a decade to die from injuries sus-

tained in the ring. He underwent surgery in Glasgow's Southern General Hospital on Friday to remove a blood clot, but never regained consciousness.

Drew Docherty, Mr Murray's opponent in the bantamweight British title clash in Glasgow - which ended in ugly brawls among spectators - said he and his manager Tommy Gilmour were "shattered".

An independent panel, which

investigated last year's death of boxer Bradley Stone and advised the British Boxing Board of Control, will now meet again.

Peter Richards, a consultant neurosurgeon who chaired the panel, said it delivered recommendations for improving safety to the board only a few weeks ago. He said: "We will consider what happened over the weekend and decide whether any additions should be made to the report."

Its recommendations included replacing pre-fight CTC brain scans with the more sophisticated magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans; pre-match checks that boxers are not dehydrated to meet the weight requirements; and reviewing the number and length of rounds, as well as the intervals between them.

The board's chief medical officer, Adrian Whiteson, who also sits on the panel, said he ex-

pected to publish new guidelines within a month, although it was impossible to make the sport "100 per cent safe".

The Liberal Democrats' sport spokesman, Menzies Campbell, called for a Royal Commission inquiry, and added: "The tragic death of this fine young man makes it increasingly difficult to justify boxing."

Margaret and Kenny Murray were at their son's bedside

throughout the weekend. They left yesterday morning, shortly after surgeon Garth Crucick-shank pronounced him dead.

Strathclyde police are investigating the violence which marred the end of the dinner and fight at the Hospitality Inn. Paramedics had to push their way through brawling spectators to reach the collapsed fighter.

Boxing ban demands, page 3  
Leading article, page 20

## Prince wades into battle for lottery cash

### Duke of Edinburgh lobbies Major

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The Duke of Edinburgh has stepped into the controversy over the way money is being spent from the National Lottery fund by appealing to the Prime Minister to intervene.

Prince Philip lobbied the Prime Minister when John Major spent a weekend with the Queen at Balmoral to reverse a decision by the National Heritage Memorial Fund not to back one of his pet projects, the expansion of the National Maritime Museum, in Greenwich.

A leaked letter from the Prime Minister's private office reveals that Prince Philip and the chairman of the museum's trustees, Lord Lewin, the former First Sea Lord and Chief of Defence Staff, were "considerably upset" at the way the National Heritage Memorial Fund rejected the museum's application for millions of pounds from the lottery for the Neptune Hall project.

The leak will provoke a fresh row about the way lottery money is being allocated by the NHMF, which was savaged

criticised for paying around £10m to the Tory MP Winston Churchill for the Churchill papers and £52m to the Royal Opera House.

Prince Philip raised the issue with Alex Allen, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary. Mr Allen then wrote to Hayden Phillips, permanent secretary at the Department of National Heritage.

The fact that Mr Major authorised his private secretary to ask the heritage department to investigate shows he is concerned and may feel that Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary should act.

The Queen's private secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, warned in an attached memorandum for Mr Major that the Neptune Hall project - part of a scheme to turn the Greenwich site into a world millennium centre - could be threatened by the NHMF's rejection.

Mr Allen's letter to Downing Street newspaper carries a "restricted" security code, but was leaked to Chris Smith, Labour's spokesman on heritage affairs, and passed to the *Independent*. Mr Smith said the

memorandum by Sir Robert showed a "clear and sorry saga of incompetence" in vetting projects for lottery funds. He defended its disclosure as in the public interest.

"It has taken the intervention from the Royal family to do something," he said. It will be exploited by Labour in a Commons attack on Thursday on the Government for its handling of the National Lottery.

"Things have gone to a sorry pass when it takes the Royal family to intervene to bring progress. I don't blame Prince Philip for getting involved. It should not need to happen."

Mr Allen says in the letter to Mr Phillips: "During the Prime Minister's visit to Balmoral over the weekend, the Duke of Edinburgh spoke to me about the Neptune Hall project."

He and Terry Lewin were both considerably upset by the way the National Heritage Memorial Fund had treated the National Maritime Museum's application. Sir Robert Fellowes subsequently gave me the attached note, which the Duke of Edinburgh has seen. I should be most grateful for your comments and advice."

Sir Robert accuses the fund of basing its decision on reports which showed "ignorance". He dismisses one of the reports of access for the disabled as "a waste of time and money".

The leak will also intensify the row over the Government's plans to privatise the adjoining Royal Naval College at Greenwich, which has also upset members of the Royal family.

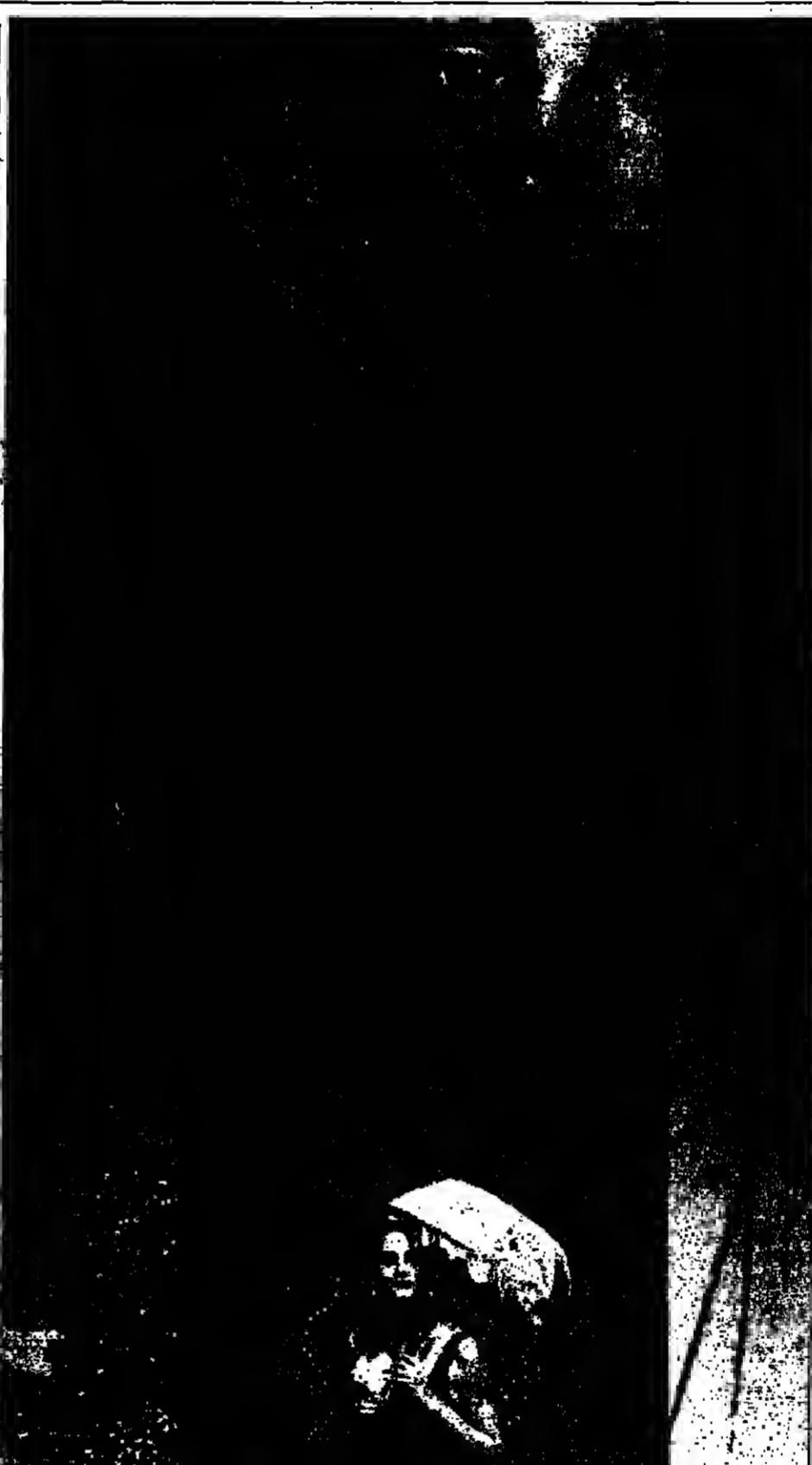
Catalogue of failure, page 2

Dear Hayden

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

During the Prime Minister's visit to Balmoral over the weekend, the Duke of Edinburgh spoke to me about the Neptune Hall project at the National Maritime Museum. He and Terry Lewin were both considerably upset by the way the National Heritage Memorial Fund had treated the National Maritime Museum's application. Sir Robert Fellowes subsequently gave me the attached note, which the Duke of Edinburgh has seen. I should be most grateful for your comments and advice on this.

The letter that sparked the latest lottery grants row.



Past perfect: A model is dwarfed by images of fashion history at the Lacroix show for spring and summer in Paris yesterday  
Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

## Portillo sticks to his guns over conference tirade

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, yesterday defiantly refused to tone down his attacks on Brussels, in spite of growing unease by left-wing Tory MPs and fresh criticism by Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission.

The Positive European group

of Tory MPs led by Hugh Dykes will meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, tomorrow in attempt to persuade the Government to repair the damage done by Mr Portillo at last week's Tory party conference.

The Macleod Group of Tory MPs are also concerned at the right-wing agenda set out by Mr Portillo and other Cabinet colleagues to the conference, and

may call for a meeting with John Major. Its leader, Peter Temple-Morris, said: "It's now a matter for the Prime Minister. He appeared to applaud Mr Portillo's speech, but he has to set the tone."

Mr Portillo made it clear yesterday that he would not be silenced by pressure from within the party. "I don't regret any of the language I have used...

I stripped away all the waffle and I said very plainly a Conservative government is not going to be drawn into a European superstate where very important decisions are taken by the council of ministers or by the commission," he said on BBC Television.

Mr Santer, appearing simultaneously on LWT, stood by his condemnation of the speech as "grotesque". He denied there were plans to create a United States of Europe, but added: "Britain is at heart of Europe. It has to give us something from its own identity. I think Britain has to give an input, a strong input in the EU and I hope that in the inter-governmental conference we would overcome all the difficulties and we can reach some compromises."

Defence chiefs were also privately appalled by Mr Portillo's use of the SAS in his speech to emphasise his Eurosceptic convictions. Despite the conference rhetoric, the Government is planning to go along with the European Court of Human Rights judgment against the SAS by paying the £58,000 costs for the families of the three IRA terrorists killed in Gibraltar.

A new "cocontract" between home and school under which parents would assume greater responsibility for their children's academic performance and behaviour will be outlined in a speech Paddy Ashdown will make to the Institute of Education tomorrow. Page 8

**Ashdown's "cocontract"**  
A new "cocontract" between home and school under which parents would assume greater responsibility for their children's academic performance and behaviour will be outlined in a speech Paddy Ashdown will make to the Institute of Education tomorrow. Page 8

**Israeli revenge**  
Israel launched an intensive search-and-destroy operation in South Lebanon yesterday after the Shia Hezbollah militia killed six Israeli infantrymen and seriously wounded a seventh in an ambush in Israel's self-proclaimed South Lebanon security zone. Page 18

**Credit card query**  
Mona Sahlin, Sweden's deputy premier, has been groomed to become the country's first woman prime minister next year. But, today, prosecutors are likely to announce an official investigation into repeated misuse of her government credit cards. Page 3

**Western Samoa defeated**  
Wales beat Western Samoa 22-10 and will meet England in the first semi-final of the rugby league World Cup on Saturday. Australia meet New Zealand in the second semi-final on Sunday. Page 52

**Hargreaves trek to K2**  
The husband of mountaineer Alison Hargreaves has taken their children on a 10-day trek in the Himalayas to show them where their mother died. Page 5



FIGHT FANS

## COMMENT

**Evan Davis:** "Enterprise Britain" may sound like a trite conference slogan but it contains the seeds of a real new policy for the Tories. Page 19

**Andrew Marshall:** After Wimpygate who would want the top Nato job? Page 21

**Nicholas Schoon:** When can we expect a definitive answer to the global warming riddle? Page 21

**Another View:** Andrea Stuart on how to stop the nightmare that is Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam spreading to the UK. Page 20

**Ruth Dudley Edwards:** uncovers Britain's most overdue library book. Page 19

**Weather:** It will be wet and windy in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Most of England and Wales will be dry with wind and rain edging in from the west later. Section Two, page 26

## Nothing short of abolition can save lives

KEN JONES

Professional boxing is so rough and dangerous that even those of us who think it the most basic and natural and thrilling of athletic competitions - and it is best an art form - are obliged to respect the argument that it is a vicious business that should be legislated out of existence.

A personal view is that the sport will terminate naturally

from want of participants, an audience and consequently critical television funding, but people who honestly believe boxing to be a bright spot in society have every right to cite the awful fate that befell Jim Murray on Friday night in support of their position.

The riot that broke out at the Hospitality Inn, Glasgow, making it difficult for paramedics to reach the stricken Murray is horrible in the imagination but is a separate issue.

Because, by all accounts, speedier attention would not have saved Murray from becoming yet another tragic statistic and medical safeguards demanded by the British Boxing Board are put forward as an example internationally, it is difficult to see how the sport can be made safer.

In any case, professional fighters are realists who recognise boxing for the harsh business it is, and accept the stern code which demands that a man go on battling as long as he is able to stay on his feet. "We all know that boxing is a life-threatening sport," Frank Bruno has said. Perhaps if aspirants were informed vividly of the mental debilitation evident in many former champions as the result of taking heavy blows to the head, they might think twice about submitting themselves to the perils that brought about Murray's death in just his 25th year.

They are no more persuaded by history (Murray is the 11th boxer to suffer a brain injury in a British ring since 1986) than track and field athletes are to take on board the possible crip-

pling side effects of stimulants. Ambition overwhelms every other consideration.

The novelist Joyce Carol Oates wrote: "Boxers are there to establish an absolute experience, a public accounting of the outermost limits of their beings; they will know, as few of us can know of ourselves, what physical and psychic power they possess of how much, or how little, they are capable."

Fifteen years ago next month, the Welsh bantamweight Johnny Owen died six weeks after slipping into a coma when challenging Lupe Pintor, of Mexico, for the WBC championship. Yesterday, Owen's father, Dick, kept the newspapers away from his wife. "The memory is still painful," he said. "Boxing was Johnny's life but it took him from us. I feel terribly sad for Murray's family." Michael Watson, who collapsed against Chris Eubank, probably as the result of cumulative damage sustained in hard middleweight contests, remains in a wheelchair. Gerald McClellan, who was rushed to hospital after losing a brutal bout against Nigel Benn in London earlier this year, can hardly see or speak. On their way into the Peacock gymnasium, in east London, young boxers pass a memorial to the ill-fated Bradley Stone.

As most serious injuries appear to be sustained when the fighter is exhausted and perhaps dehydrated, a further reduction in the maximum distance (presently 12 rounds) and longer intervals between sessions has been suggested as a means of making the sport less hazardous. But without head punches, another proposal, boxing would sink quickly to the level of professional wrestling. The only sure course is abolition.

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2  
news

# Clarke's tax-cutting splits the Cabinet

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The Chancellor is facing a Cabinet split this week over his efforts to cut spending to make way for tax cuts in the November Budget.

Kenneth Clarke will chair a meeting of the EDX Cabinet committee this week in an attempt to resolve the spending row with the secretaries of state for health, education and social security, who are still to settle their budgets.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is privately challenging the tax-cutting strategy to ensure it does not damage public services. She yesterday made it clear she wanted the Cabinet to reach a collective decision.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast With Frost* programme, she said: "At the moment, what we are doing across government is arriving at collective decisions about the balance between public spending and the needs of the economy."

"This obviously includes tax cuts. You can imagine there is a vigorous debate. There always is. It is particularly vigorous this year because the whole issue is given a very high profile."

Paddy Ashdown yesterday raised the stakes in the political row over the future of Britain's schools by writing to every Tory backbencher urging them to put education before tax cuts.

The Prime Minister gave Mrs Shephard his clear backing by warning: "Don't mess with Gill." But he warned Tory supporters at last week's Conservative Party conference that the Government would be "ruthless" with spending priorities. That was seen as a signal that some unpopular decisions will be announced in the Budget in November.

The Chancellor, who warned the party that it could lead to policy changes, has summoned his Treasury team to a meeting on Friday at his country residence, Dorneywood, to thrash out the Budget strategy. He is seeking cuts of £300m more by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, and is demanding deeper cuts by the Secretary of State for Social Security, Peter Lilley.

Mr Lilley omitted mention of lone parents from his speech. But ministerial sources confirmed that a cut in new claims for the lone parent's allowance will be announced in the Budget.

He promised to curb fraud as a further attempt to save money, but a further squeeze on welfare spending has been ordered by the Treasury.

The Cabinet minister for public service, Roger Freeman, will announce a fresh round of cuts to reduce the cost of government. But the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir George Young, has had to bear the brunt of the cuts. The roads programme is one of the principal victims and major schemes, including the Newbury by-pass, are likely to be shelved.

Tories on the left wing of the party are alarmed at the threat to services. Said one MP: "We cannot afford tax cuts."

**Maritime museum crisis:** A multi-million pound project could be scrapped without National Lottery Memorial Fund backing

## Leaked memo attacks funding delay

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

A "catalogue of incompetence" in the allocation of money by the National Lottery Memorial Fund is revealed in a leaked memorandum by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, Chris Smith, the Labour Party's National Heritage spokesman, said yesterday.

Sir Robert's five-page memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office says the refusal of the National Lottery Memorial Fund to approve the project to develop the National Maritime Museum's Neptune Hall at Greenwich in south-east London, which presently houses a steam tug, launches, and yachts, could force the museum to abandon the plans, unless action is taken quickly.

The museum had planned to complete the scheme - a key part of its multi-million-pound development of the site - by 1999 in time for the Millennium when the National Maritime Museum has "an unprecedented opportunity" to display and promote its galleries and services to 10 million visitors who are expected to visit Greenwich.

A total of £560,000 already has been spent on the project, which "is already behind schedule and any further delay cannot be contemplated as it would ensure that the museum was a building site with half its galleries closed during the Millennium celebrations", Sir Robert says, adding: "Any further delay in funding decisions will almost certainly lead to cancellation of the project."

It follows the development of the Queen's House at a cost of £6m; the south-west wing, costing £3.6m; the Old Royal Observatory at a cost of £2.2m; the east wing, at a cost of £1m; and at a cost of £4m the west-central wing as an information centre; the west wing, north end.



**Millennium project:** Development plans for the National Maritime Museum (to the left) could be abandoned without the necessary funding approval

Photograph: Philip Meech

as an education centre, and the west-central wing south end.

Sir Robert says the Neptune Hall scheme was "essential for the improvement of access and circulation". It had been approved by English Heritage; had listed buildings consent by Greenwich council; clearance from the Treasury's economic

that it would be approved by the National Heritage Memorial Fund without delay, but in July it was rejected. The memorial fund based its decision on four reports, but Sir Robert says that in the view of the museum's trustees, "these reports are superficial and in some cases ignorant and prejudiced".

Application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund was made in January. It was thought

that the architects for the refurbishment of the Round Tower, Windsor Castle, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Royal Opera House, Sir Robert says this "undermines the credibility of the report".

A second report on the interior was largely complimentary, but the author raised issues which were already being ad-

dressed and made no attempt to contact the museum or the designers. The third report on environmental services exhibited ignorance of design details and its author failed to contact the museum. The author of a fourth report on disabled access made no contact with the museum and failed to note that the museum had appointed a disabled persons liaison officer.

Sir Robert says: "The trustees of the NMM have been given no inkling that their application was likely to be rejected and have not any stage been informed in writing of the nature of the NMM's reservations. The trustees have spent four years and over half a million pounds developing this scheme and are satisfied that it best meets the primary objective of improving access to and circulation within the museum while enhancing the historic buildings."

## MoD reviews plans to merge defence staff training

Controversial plans to sell the Royal Naval College at Greenwich in south-east London - one of Britain's great architectural treasures - have hit a major obstacle, it was disclosed yesterday.

Defence chiefs have been forced to review plans to form a single tri-service staff college at Camberley, Surrey, bringing

the Army, Royal Navy and RAF together under one roof because of huge costs.

Detailed studies into the cost of refurbishing the existing Army Staff College have disclosed that "tens of millions of pounds" will be needed to carry out the work.

The cost is substantially more than predicted in initial studies,

raising fears that savings might not be seen until well into the next century.

"There is a lot of teeth-sucking going on about the scale of the costs involved in the refurbishment of Camberley," said a senior defence source.

Alternative sites to Camberley are now under consideration to see whether greater savings

can be made. And there are grave doubts whether the 1997 deadline for forming the tri-service college can now be met.

"Everything is being considered - from constructing a new building from scratch to using another existing building," said another official.

"There is a body of opinion which argues that refurbishing

Camberley is simply not cost-effective."

However, the Ministry of Defence is still determined to put and all three staff colleges together.

"The problem is you have to spend to save and at the moment the MoD is faced with costs they don't want to face," said the official.

## Grant voices concern over riot estate rally

JOJO MOYES

The main speaker at Britain's biggest black power rally to date, due to take place today, has expressed concern over plans to hold it at Broadwater Farm estate, the scene of the riots in Tottenham, north London. It's years ago.

A thousand black men and women are expected to gather for today's show of political strength, timed to coincide with the Million Man black march in Washington, United States.

Organised as a recruitment drive by the Nation of Islam, it will be held at the site of the Tottenham riots in which Constable Keith Blakelock was killed.

Bernie Grant, the Labour MP for Tottenham, has been persuaded by the radical black organisation to speak at the rally. But yesterday he expressed doubts about the decision to hold it in the racially sensitive area.

"If it were my rally I wouldn't

have gone to Broadwater Farm," he said. "Last week I was there with community leaders and we were talking about the unity of the Farm."

Speaking on yesterday's Radio 4 Sunday programme, Mr Grant said that the Nation of Islam addressed young unemployed black people, so "of course this is fertile ground for them to work on". However, he said it was "very important" that he attend what is billed as the biggest protest march since the Sixties to engage them in dialogue.

He said the board would be monitoring the rally for signs of anti-semitism. "If the British group follows the lead of the Americans we will certainly have our concerns," he added.

The Nation of Islam is led in Britain by Wayne X, 36, of London, a self-employed graphic artist, who preaches the gospel of black self-help. Supporters, wearing bow ties and dark suits can be regularly spotted around London, selling copies of the movement's newspaper, the *Final Call*.

Million Man March, page 17  
Leading article, page 20

## Skye bridge is opened by Forsyth

STEVE CONNOR  
Science Correspondent

The Isle of Skye loses its romantic island status today when the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth, opens the £30m bridge connecting it to the mainland.

Mr Forsyth is sharing the ribbon-cutting ceremony with children from the local Loch Duich primary school.

The project has been dogged by controversy - and only partly because it renders redundant the musical image of Skye as a place accessible only by bonny boats speeding over the sea "like a bird in the wing".

Conservationists voiced fears for its effect on wildlife, and islanders complained about the toll charges, which are £5.20 for a car in high season.

The 570-metre bridge was built mainly with private money, with the construction firms recouping the outlay from toll charges before handing the bridge into public ownership next century.

## Secret of a long life: eat, drink and be merry

STEVE CONNOR

Science Correspondent

Be a couch potato for the evening, indulge in a bar of chocolate every now and again, fear not that extra glass of wine. Scientists have discovered that a little of what you fancy really does you good.

The health conscious, work-out world of the 1990s could in fact be doing more damage to people because of the guilt it induces in those who seek a modicum of physical pleasure through eating, drinking or just rolling about.

Research into the "pleasure pathways" of the brain has found that happy people are healthier and live longer, even if they do not always follow the advice of the diet planners and fitness freaks.

Professor David Warburton, director of the Human Psychopharmacology Group at Reading University, said de-

priving people of simple pleasures by making them feel guilty helps to create the psychological climate in which depression can flourish.

Professor Warburton said research into anti-anxiety drugs and anti-depressants has shown that a cup of coffee, a glass of wine, a cigarette, some sugar or a few pieces of chocolate make people calmer, more relaxed and generally happier.

"This is not surprising because these products have a mild pharmacological action on the pleasure pathways in the brain."

It is known that the same pathways in the brain have found that happy people are healthier and live longer, even if they do not always follow the advice of the diet planners and fitness freaks.

Depressed people, he says, are more likely to become ill from disorders ranging from infections to heart disease and cancer, "while medical evidence are bad for health."

shows that happier people live longer". Even physical exercise may not necessarily be a good thing if people do not find it pleasurable. Said: "If you don't enjoy your jogging, it's not going to be good for you."

Professor Warburton said that the largest survey of office workers in the world - covering 16 countries and more than 5,000 employees - showed that a sizeable minority are under such stress they do not want to do their job.

Making the workplace more enjoyable by encouraging coffee breaks and chatting rather than frowning on such "time-wasting" activities will not only make employees happier, but it will also increase productivity, Professor Warburton said.

"People should not be made to feel guilty and anxious, if their pleasures are enjoyed in moderation and are not harming others. Such negative emotions are bad for health."

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Fatal contest: Grief at Murray's death after title fight to be followed by further soul-searching over future of the sport

## Boxing in the dock after tragedy in ring

DERRICK WHYTE

Jim Murray always wanted to be a boxing champion, but on Friday night he collapsed in round 12 of a British title fight and yesterday morning at 8.50 he was declared dead.

During his ferocious encounter with Drew Docherty, Murray's stamina and determination appeared to be sufficient for him to secure the British bantamweight title in Glasgow. However, he faded during the last three rounds and collapsed with just 34 seconds left.

Now boxing will have to answer some serious accusations; not just about Murray's death but also about the mindless violence that took place inside the banqueting suite at the Hospitality Inn just seconds after Murray was counted out.

It is impossible to point the finger of blame at anybody for what happened on Friday night outside the ring or for a young man's death yesterday morning at the drab hospital in the Govan district of Glasgow. However, the public will want answers and the British Medical Association, and other critics of the brutal sport, will seek once again to ban it. Boxing must prepare itself for a confrontation during the weeks ahead.

Murray's manager, Alex Morrison, left the hospital in tears yesterday, but in reality he had started to mourn 24 hours earlier. "The doctors were brutal and held nothing back from the family," he said early on Saturday morning. "It was obvious there was no hope, but Jim's parents are determined people and they kept on praying." Yesterday his grief was complete. "I feel guilty, but Jimmy wanted to fight," he said. His former trainers confirmed Murray's dedication to his chosen profession.

On Friday as the bloody and exciting rounds passed there was

nothing that could have prevented the fight's disastrous outcome. For Murray to have survived the night would have to have ended in round six because it is probable that by then a vein inside his skull had already started to leak the blood which later formed a clot which in turn caused pressure on the skull which led to his collapse.

Earlier this year, American boxer Gerald McClellan collapsed in his world title fight against Nigel Benn. The Board's safety measures were in place and McClellan was re-

scuscitated in the ring and taken to hospital where a massive clot was removed from the surface of his brain. He is still alive but is in need of constant care.

On Friday, when Murray went down his body was twitching but it was still possible that he was suffering merely from dehydration. The severity of his injury only became apparent when he arrived at the hospital and was transferred from casualty to the neurological unit where he underwent the two-hour operation.

"By late yesterday [Saturday] all signs of neurological activity were extinct. We performed a set of criteria then to establish whether that was the case. I again carried out a set

of brain death criteria this morning [Sunday] and pronounced Mr Murray dead at 8.50," said consultant neurosurgeon Garth Cruckshank, the man who performed the operation.

Late last night Docherty was said to be inconsolable and is now considering his future. Before the fight the pair had shown an animosity towards each other. It was a straightforward British title fight between two boxers, neither of whom had made that much money from the sport, to determine who was the best bantamweight in Britain.

In the Newmans area on the outskirts of Glasgow many were still shocked by the death of Murray. It is a run-down, tough area and according to Murray's first boxing coach, Ally Gilmore, the boxer used the sport to "get himself off the streets".

As the rounds passed on Friday night and Murray looked set for victory it looked like he had achieved his goal. With it there was the possibility of a European or even a world title fight next year to look forward to.

"Jim was very confident and he was really looking forward to winning the title, defending it a few times and then looking for some big money fights," said Morrison.

Now the British Boxing Board of Control will once again consult with the neurosurgeons on their Neurological Advisory Panel to see if anything can be learned from Murray's death.

Nicky Piper, the chairman of the Professional Boxers Association, called for renewed and improved neurological examinations before fights. "Boxers have to have the expensive but crucial MRI scan," he said.

"We need regular medical monitoring and MRIs have to be introduced for all boxers," the London promoter Frank Warren said.

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## news

# Hackers 'costing firms millions' in telephone fraud

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Correspondent

Businesses are facing "a plague" of telephone hackers, who can run up bills of thousands of pounds in a few weeks by exploiting flaws in modern switchboard systems.

A large British company based in London incurred a £500,000 bill when hackers used a dozen of its phone lines during the night, for two months, to make calls to the US, Africa, India, Pakistan and Russia.

One hospital saw its phone bill rocket by £50,000 in a single week when phone hackers calling from outside found a weakness in its switchboard, and used it to make calls to China.

The *Independent* has found that phone fraud, which exploits combinations of flaws in freefone numbers, voicemail systems and modern automatic switchboards, has been growing rapidly since the end of 1993, when the telecommunications watchdog Ofcom first allowed the sale of switchboards which can

forward external calls to outside lines. Phone hackers can exploit this to call via the switchboard to other numbers. Industry estimates reckon phone hacking is now costing companies millions of pounds every year.

But victims of fraud contacted by the *Independent* are reluctant to be named because they say it could ruin their companies' credibility. Some companies are understood to be reluctant to pursue court cases even after identifying hackers because they fear negative publicity. Many are angry that they were not warned by the manufacturers of the switchboards about the potential for hacking.

"We think consumers are super-sensitive to the idea of hackers, and as a software company we don't want our name associated with it," said an executive at the British subsidiary of an American software company. A lone hacker cost his company £1,000 in one week last December.

The computer manager of an oil company, where hackers ran up a £40,000 bill in a couple of weeks, said: "I think people in industry aren't aware that modern voicemail and switchboard systems really are computers, and so are vulnerable to hacking. We didn't know what was going on."

But John Chatterton, an independent consultant who has advised a number of companies on how to stop phone fraud, said: "Nobody tells the truth about this because it's too embarrassing to admit. I have been trying to get companies to take these cases to court but they are reluctant to be named publicly."

The managers at the software company and the oil company say they were not warned about the possibility of hackers abusing their system by the makers of the switchboards. "We didn't understand what was happening," said the executive of the software company. "We came in one morning and were getting no calls at all on our direct sales line. Then we found the hacker had reconfigured it to call the United States."



River victims: Vet Andy Routh with swans being treated at the RSPCA hospital in Nantwich, Cheshire, after 2,000 litres of heavy fuel oil leaked into the Mersey from a chemical plant's storage tank at Warrington. A wildlife rescue operation was underway yesterday. Photograph: Ian Millar

## Inspectors to single out poor teachers

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

Individual teachers could be picked out for criticism or praise on their lessons and on how well their pupils are performing under a new, simplified school inspection system to be announced tomorrow.

Schools will also be judged on the amount of homework they set, even for the youngest pupils, and will be expected to account for how they use the free time gained when the content of the National Curriculum was cut.

But teachers' leaders say the framework could also back up a pledge by the Prime Minister last month that inspectors should name a school's weakest or strongest staff. In the past, judgements have been made on school departments rather than on individuals.

Officials say details of the Prime Minister's scheme are still under discussion, but leaked draft guidance on the new inspection framework says teachers will be judged on how well they know their subjects, whether their lessons are well matched to the curriculum, whether their pupils are well-motivated and whether they are able to raise expectations. They will also be expected to show that they are using resources efficiently and assessing pupils' progress properly.

Last week, Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, was attacked for announcing complete inspections of two London boroughs on the eve of the Conservative Party conference. Now teachers' leaders have complained that John Major's plans were not discussed during the consultation period on the new inspection measures. They say the moves will intensify opposition to an already unpopular inspection system.

Tomorrow's announcement is designed mainly to allow inspectors to concentrate on literacy and numeracy, and cut down on unnecessary paperwork.

Further changes to the privatised school inspection system - under which all secondary schools will be visited by 1997 and primary schools by 1998 - are also under discussion. Plans expected to be complete by the end of this year could mean that good schools will wait six years before their next inspection while weaker schools will be revisited after two.

Plans to allow schools to evaluate their own progress, monitored by inspectors, now seem to have stalled.

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads Association and a member of Ofsted's consultation group on inspections, said that it had never discussed allowing inspectors to judge individual teachers.

However, he added that the new framework's emphasis on teaching and learning could strengthen the Prime Minister's plans, and that this would be bound to prove harmful. Schools could only be improved with the co-operation of everyone in them, he argued.

"It does not seem helpful to have a model of inspection which is seen to be hostile to the individual."

"All that will happen is that individuals will tighten ranks to fight off this enemy," he said.

## THE MISSING

### Andrew O'Hagan

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*The Herald*

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Blake Morrison, *Guardian*

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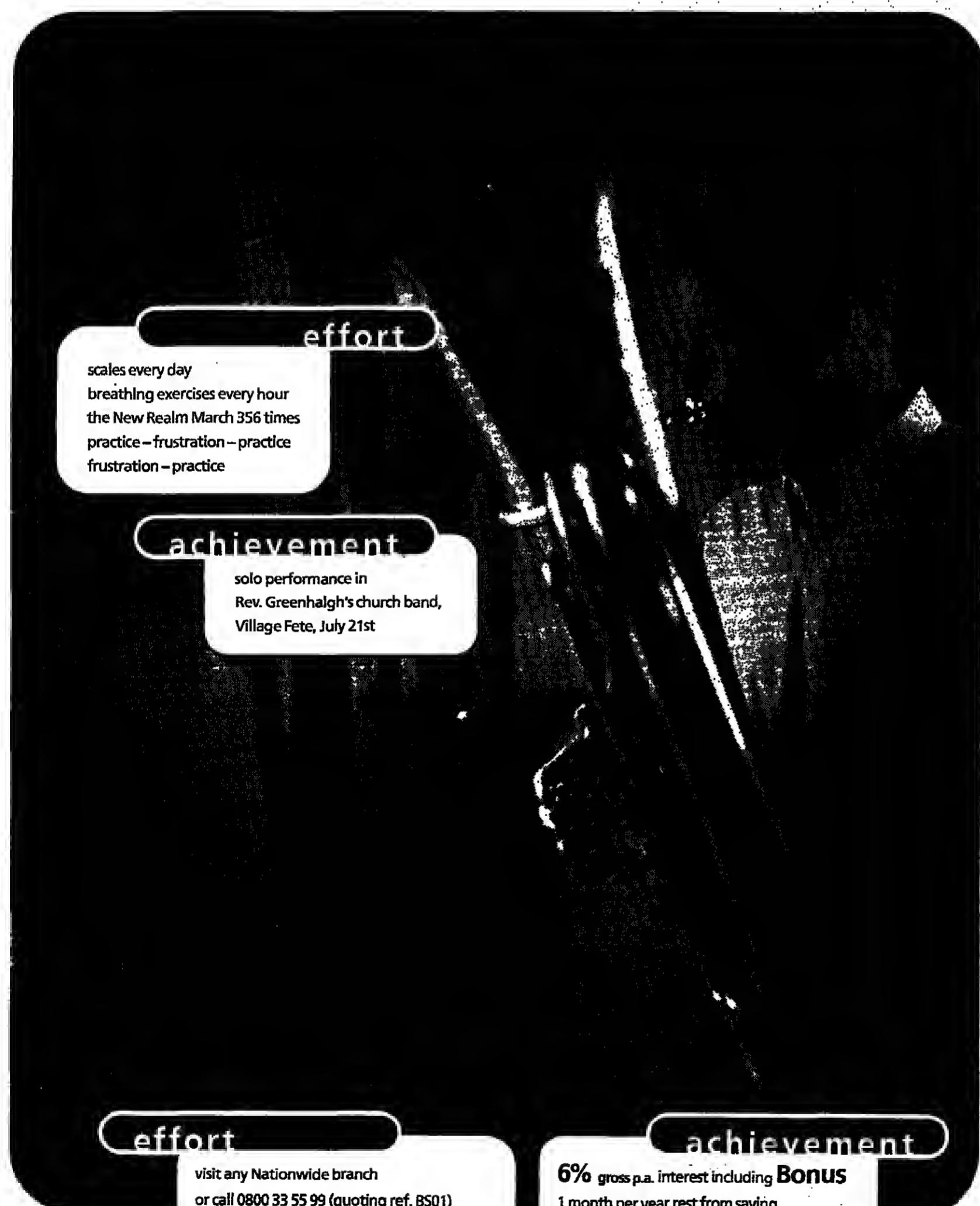
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Among the festivities there will be live bands, speakers, dance DJs, a barbecue, as well as circus acts and a children's marquee. It'll be a great family day and an opportunity for you to register your concern.

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## news

# Ashdown in move to educate parents

**Donald Macintyre** talks to Paddy Ashdown as the post-conference dust settles on a new relationship between his party and Labour

This is where we came in. In cinematic terms it was the Liberal Democrats who, back in September, provided the first feature of the conference programme, and Paddy Ashdown is understandably keen to remind voters, after two solid weeks of Labour and Tory as the main attractions, that he is still box office.

Yesterday, having seen Alan Howarth defect a week earlier to Labour without pausing to consider Mr Ashdown's party as an alternative, the Lib Dem leader shot a letter to all Tory MPs exhorting them to line up with his party by lobbying Kenneth Clarke to restore the cuts which resulted from the education budget last year, ensure a significant spending increase in this year's, and to vote against the Budget if necessary.

Although Mr Ashdown will not say so, the letter is clearly aimed at the 30-to-40 one-nation MPs whom Mr Howarth claims are potentially as disaffected as he is himself.

Yesterday, Mr Ashdown lent his voice, as a former member of the special forces, to the chorus of denunciation of Michael Portillo for suborning Britain's military, including the SAS, for party political purposes in his "Don't Mess with Britain" speech last Tuesday.

The typical special forces soldier, Mr Ashdown said scathingly, is not some kind of "lager lout" in uniform, but "thinking, serious, very intelligent", and deeply resents being used as a politician's "prop".

If [Michael Portillo] doesn't know better than that he said, "he shouldn't be doing the job".

Tomorrow, Mr Ashdown makes an important speech to the Institute for Education and it is in this arena that Mr Ashdown has most to say at present. Unlike Tony Blair, he has come out unequivocally in favour of an extra £2bn on education spending, and against the use of spare money to cut income tax, so he is perhaps even better placed than Labour to try and intervene in the argument raging between Gillian Shephard and the Treasury on her budget for next year.



On thinking terms: Paddy Ashdown steps back into the limelight with ideas on education, defence, and party allegiance. Photograph: Philip Meech

But it is on standards that Mr Ashdown is proposing something rather interesting, if sketchy, within the party's organisational plans: the grant-maintained-style freedom of financial management for all schools, coupled with "light touch strategic control" by local authorities; strengthened powers for inspections; a General Teachers' Council to maintain professional standards and a "modularised" system of 14-to-19 education which allows maximum freedom to students to pass between vocational and academic courses.

But he will also raise the issue of parents' obligations. Mr Ashdown is envisaging a "contract between school and home" in which parents are given a much clearer notion by the school of how they can help and encourage their children. He and his education spokesman, Don Foster, have been discussing with the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations the idea of "requiring" the parents of each child to go to induction meetings on homework and home liaison officers in every school with the task of visiting pupils' homes and discussing problems with their parents. And as a last resort, they would consider running classes for parents, especially in inner city areas where the culture of parental involvement in education may be least developed. He sees parents' involvement as the most "cost-effective" action which can be taken to improve education standards. Mr Ashdown is conscious, of course, that this fits in well with what Tony Blair has been saying about individual rights being matched by responsibilities.

Which brings us again to the question of how the conference season has left his relations with the Labour Party. Clearly he admires Mr Blair's speech to a "highly successful" Labour conference. But he has sharp criticisms too. He is still irritated by Mr Blair's apparent, though deniable, attempt to upstage his own conference with an interview extending the prospect of co-operation between the two

parties. He is less than impressed by the deal that Mr Blair announced with BT Labour, he insisted, sold itself "cheap" and looked as if it was "picking up brightly coloured pebbles from other people's beaches". He abhors, too, the personalised attacks on his candidate at Littleborough and Saddleworth as undermining new Labour's commitment to pluralism. And he is hating Mr Blair on his "equivocation on proportional representation."

Mr Ashdown claims it is a positive electoral benefit to the Lib Dems if they are the only party with a distinct commitment to PR. But he finds it "genuinely surprising" that Mr Blair won't commit himself on a position in the referendum he has promised.

But between the lines of the continued, sometimes strident, complaints on both sides it is still reasonable to expect that after the post-conference dust has settled, the Lib Dems' break with equidistance between the two main parties will gradually come to bear more fruit. Mr Ashdown is sounding warmer about the idea that both parties should start pre-election talks on the daunting mechanics of getting those elements of con-

stitutional reform on which they agree – like freedom of information and the Scottish Parliament – through the Commons. Secondly, he is now floating the idea of co-operation. And he notes approvingly that Mr Blair is gradually embracing his own beloved principle of "hypothecated", or earmarked taxes.

But isn't Mr Ashdown now leading the only "tax-and-spend" party? Far from it, he says. Labour has a record which means they have now to "wrap it all in cotton wool, say as little as possible, and look as much on tax as they can". The Lib

Dems, with their pledge to deliver a costed manifesto, is the "promises with a bill attached" party, combining commitments to social justice and "economic toughness" – including a specific 3-per-cent inflation target. Mr Ashdown rejects as "obsolete" the term "left", and embraces the term "radical" which he interprets as "prepared to go to the roots of the problem and address it in an honest and courageous way".

What he will allow is that at a time when Labour is still showing "extraordinary timidity" the party has now, perhaps, "come home" to its tradition of "conscience and reform" that, as he put in his Glasgow speech, informed its sweep to power in 1906.

At the beginning of the year there had been three crucial questions: Would Tony Blair moderate Labour? Would the Tories self-destruct? Would the Liberal Democrats be swept aside? The answers had been yes, no and no.

Mr Ashdown said: "We've ended a very tough year intact and are still building. The party is better placed and better understands its role that any time since I came into the House of Commons."

## Children reject parents' lack of a marriage

### GLENDA COOPER

Most children from one-parent families want a traditional marriage, thinking it should be forever and that it is better to live with two parents than one.

Divorce may have increased fourfold over the last 24 years, with four out of ten marriages ending in divorce, but the 500 10- to 17-year-olds questioned by Mori, from both one- and two-parent families, retain enormous faith in the sanctity of marriage and want it to stay that way. More than 4 million (34 per cent) "worry a lot" about their parents splitting up.

Two million children are being brought up by a single parent and the number of such families has more than doubled since 1971 – from 9 per cent to 21 per cent. One in three children is born outside marriage.

One parenthood has been blamed for the rise in crime rates, psychosocial disorders and poor exam qualifications. Traditional family life is seen as under constant threat.

But the poll, commissioned by Readers' Digest, does not show that children share that view. Four-fifths declared that they would get married themselves one day. The view was shared almost equally between boys (80 per cent) and girls (83 per cent). And children whose parents had separated or divorced are just as likely to consider marriage as those whose parents are still together.

More than seven out of ten children from one-parent families "also feel that marriage should be forever, and nearly 60 per cent believe it is better to live with two parents than one.

Karin Pappenheim, of the National Council For One Parent Families, said: "Marriage remains the norm and most young people reflect the idea. It shows that the majority of lone parents and children have not chosen to be in those circumstances, but it has been foisted upon them. But their practical experience does give the lie to their ideal of getting married forever. The tragedy is their ideal is later shattered by marriage breakdown."

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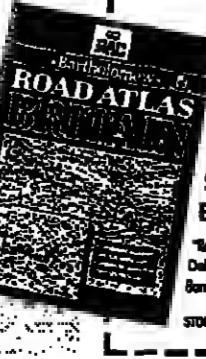
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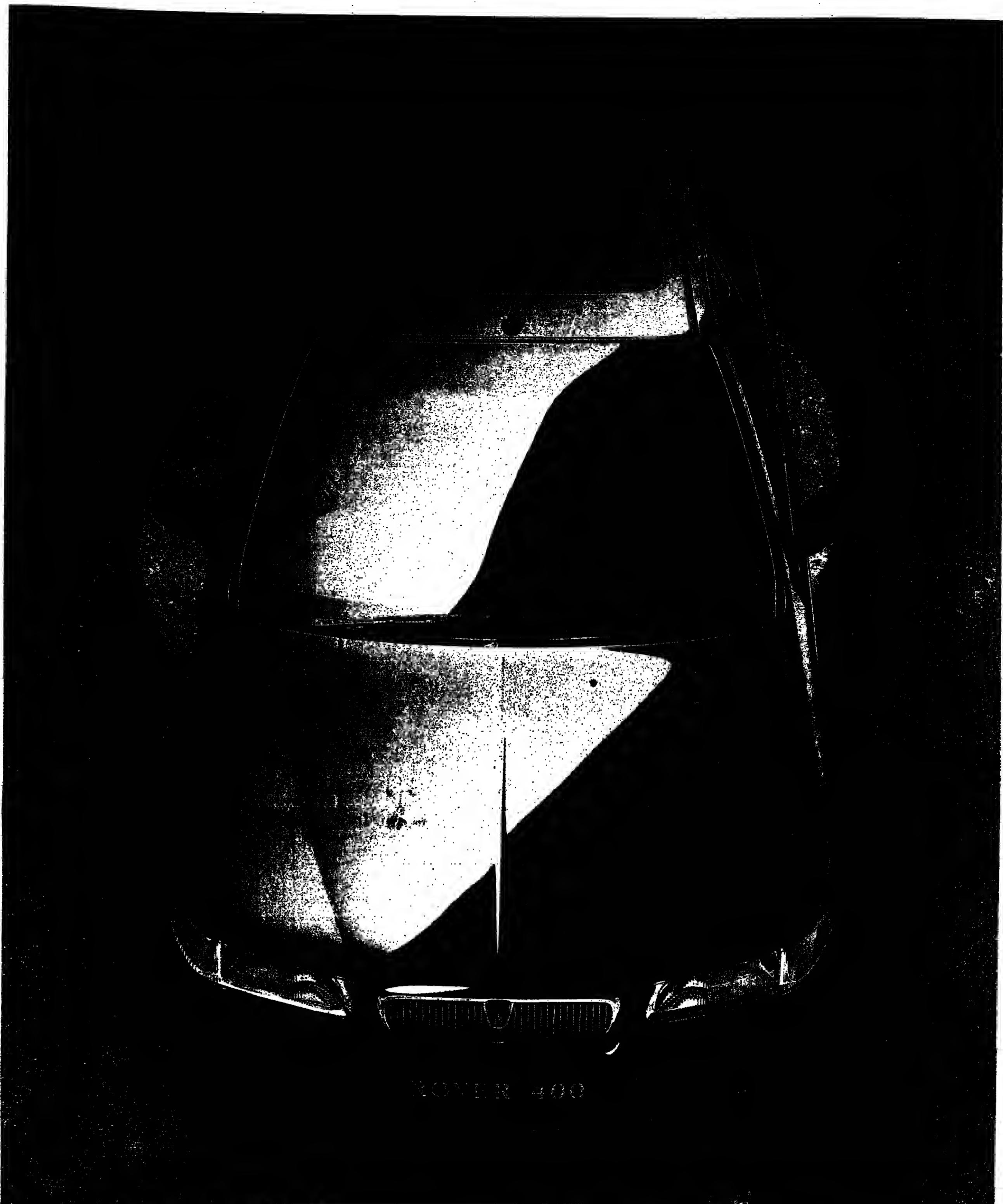
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**"You can lose out by sticking to the mortgage you took out in the first place."** Mr Cecil Smith, Middlesex

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## international

# Juppé and Jospin redraw the political battle-lines

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Mame-la-Vallée

Exhibiting a bizarre mixture of defiance and contrition following his recent political difficulties, the French prime minister, Alain Juppé, was yesterday elected leader of the Gaullist RPR party in succession to Jacques Chirac.

Mr Juppé, the only candidate, received 93 per cent of the more than 70,000 votes cast during a day of stage-managed festivities in the Disneyland conference centre outside Paris.

In a victory speech designed to stress party unity, rally the faithful and reassert the authority of his government and its loyalty to Mr Chirac's campaign promises, Mr Juppé made one brief allusion to his brush with the law over his cut-price Paris flat.

He had, he said, endured a test "which will mark me for long time". Mr Juppé and members of his family who benefited

from subsidised flats have undertaken to move out by the end of the year.

Yesterday's occasion was attended by 20,000 delegates, who arrived startled by early morning Disney tourists fêted with Mickey Mouse memorabilia. Inside the giant marquee, they were treated to an occasion replete with tricolours, jazz band, T-shirted cheerleaders and stylised crosses of Lorraine, all clearly designed to arrest the sharp fall in Mr Juppé's poll ratings and revive the spirit of triumph in which Mr Chirac was elected President five months ago.

The election of Mr Juppé as Gaullist leader brought to a close a weekend that could have been dubbed "French politics - the relaunch". On Saturday, the Socialist party had completed the formal election of Lionel Jospin as the party's new first secretary. Mr Jospin, the Socialist defeated with honour in the presidential elec-

tions, obtained more than 94 per cent of the poll of party members in a turnout of 66 per cent.

Mr Jospin, who topped the first round poll in the presidential election and achieved an unexpected high 47 per cent of the vote in the run-off against Mr Chirac, is now effectively leader of the left-wing opposition. In a rousing speech, reminiscent of his later presidential campaign addresses, Mr Jospin called on party activists to work on a return to power. He also named a new party secretariat, which combines some of his campaign team with members of the previous leadership, including the outgoing first secretary, Henri Emmanuelli.

Although the left has lost the presidency and has barely 20 per cent of parliamentary seats, it is politically stronger than it looks - because of the high public esteem in which Mr Jospin is held and the sharp fall in the popularity of the president and the prime minister.

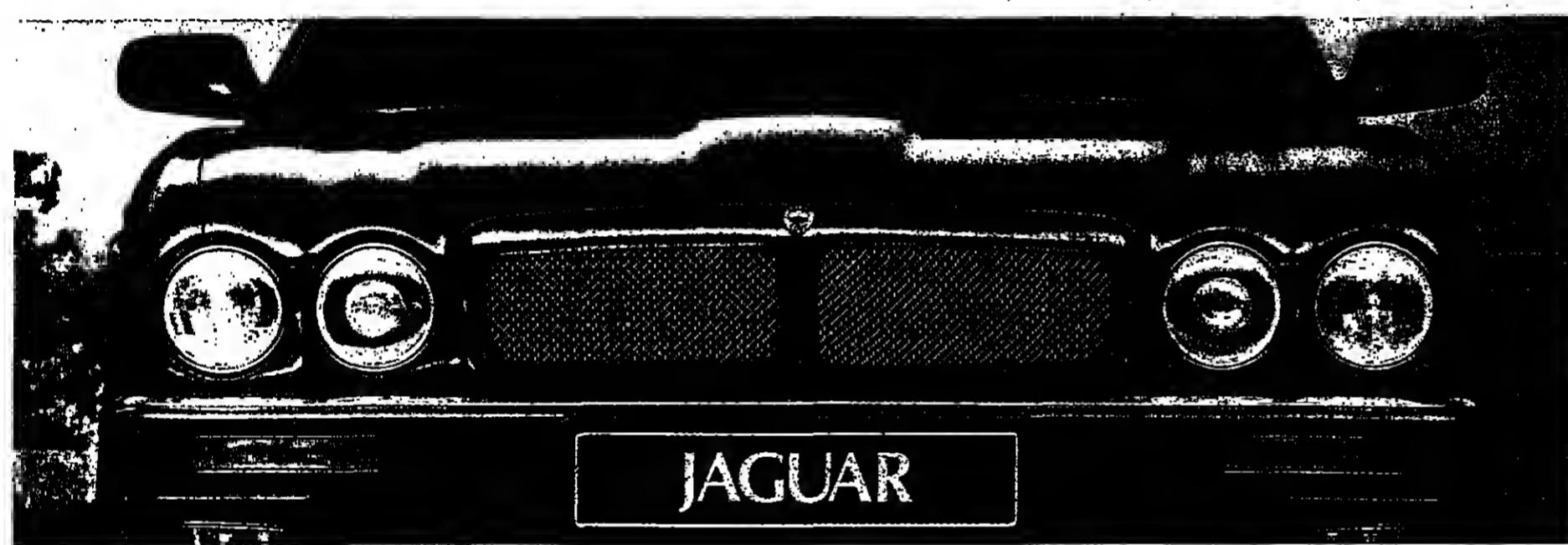
While Mr Juppé's share of the poll to become Gaullist leader was close to that of Mr Jospin's in becoming Socialist leader, there was a distinct lack of comparable warmth at yesterday's gathering. The "Young Gaullists" had to be prompted to chant "Juppé, Juppé" at appropriate moments, and were still handing out mass-produced Juppé placards as the afternoon session opened. At times, Mr Juppé seemed in danger of being upstaged by his erstwhile rival for the RPR leadership, Philippe Séguin, whose every appearance was greeted with loud cheers.

Mr Séguin's expression of support for Mr Juppé was the bare minimum and his two main calls - for structural reforms of the state and cutting the budget deficit, including a cut in interest rates which could only be achieved by dropping the "strong franc" policy - set considerable distance between himself and Mr Juppé.

Right on: French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, reacting to his election as leader of the Gaullist RPR. Photograph: AP



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Tony Blair during his stay.

He insists that he is not worried by the fear and loathing of Europe in some sections of the British Conservative Party, as was highlighted by recent remarks by the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo.

He insists on Mr Major's Euro-friendliness, and says: "John Major has won through." He is cautiously optimistic also about Labour's pro-European policies, although he expresses a fear that Labour might reduce its Euro-enthusiasm once it is in power: "There may be a difference between what a Labour leader says as an opposition leader and what he says as a prime minister."

The 52-year-old Mr Schäuble occupies a special position in German politics. His official post is leader of the parliamentary floor group of the Christian Democrats. But he wields more power than many government ministers, probably including the Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel.

Mr Schäuble is in a special position in another respect. Five years ago this month, a few days after German unification, he narrowly survived an assassination attempt, which left him wheelchair-bound.

There is a *sotto voce* debate within the Christian Democrats,



Schäuble: Blunt opinions

about whether a wheelchair-bound Chancellor could do the job. More striking, however, is the extent to which his chair is now ignored. Germany, Mr Schäuble, often seen as the chief Machiavellian in Bonn, is not a man to be patronised.

Mr Waigel himself dryly notes: "The job of the federal chancellor is not designed for the reintegration of the handicapped. That must be acknowledged." He regards debate on the subject of physical difficulties as "legitimate".

As he himself points out, however, he has already demonstrated that it is possible to carry out a demanding, high-profile job from a wheelchair. In that respect, he hopes that his presence such a prominent post may have set an example that employers and society can heed.

Theoretically, he is still the successor-in-waiting to Helmut Kohl. Still, Mr Kohl, who said last year that he would not stand again in 1998, has long since backed away from that position. Mr Schäuble insists he is not bothered: "I'm not in a waiting room. I'm in my own room. I like what I do. And I've never regretted it for one minute," he said.

Mr Schäuble is not a man to say no to the Big One. He acknowledges: "Being Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany wouldn't be boring, that's for sure." But he insists: "The question hasn't come up. And I'm glad that it hasn't."



# international

Annika Savill on the fall of the high-flyer tipped to become the country's first woman PM

## Sweden's 'A-child' bows out

Stockholm — Mona Sahlin, the woman who was set to become Sweden's youngest and first woman prime minister, will announce today whether she will resign as Deputy Prime Minister and as candidate for the leadership of the Social Democrats.

"If I don't run, I have to know that there is someone else who has the strength," Ms Sahlin said. "I have to force myself to think about who will take over. Otherwise this might end in disaster."

"I am going to write a letter to the party and ask the members to reconsider their choice," she said. "If they can find someone better, they should elect him, or her."

Her comments came as prosecutors appeared likely to announce an official investigation into her repeated misuse of her government credit cards. Ms Sahlin's borrowing of taxpayer funds for private purchases, cash withdrawals, car rentals

and family holidays are part of a mountain of press revelations about her unministerial handling of her private finances. She has been chased by bailiffs over late payments of private credit card debts, a tax debt, a late television-licence payment and 19 parking fines.

According to two opinion polls published on Saturday, a majority said Ms Sahlin was not fit to be prime minister. "I'm so sorry about the whole thing, I can hardly speak without crying," she said. "I have never, ever, stolen one single krona."

Mona Sahlin was what was known in the Swedish Labour movement as an "A-Child". Steeped in the Social Democratic institutions that helped make Sweden what it is today, she epitomised the new guard of realists who would take a tired party into the next century.

By her thirties, she had become the party leader's favourite, who could be trusted to dismantle the welfare state

while speaking the language of the common man. That was until last week, when it was disclosed that she also had been up to things that her Prime Minister and mentor, Ingvar Carlsson, had to take over when he stepped down in March.

Ms Sahlin, 38, insists her transgressions were minor. "If you want a human being who is perfect in all respects, who has never ever paid a bill late, then you shouldn't be talking to me," has been a stock reply.

Already accused of demolishing the welfare state, Ms Sahlin is now seen as lowering moral standards. Mr Carlsson has "full political confidence" in her. But, as one opposition politician put it: "I don't think that Carlsson understands that people like that actually exist."

I imagine his first reaction was that all credit-card companies should be banned.

Opposition politicians say Ms Sahlin, widely seen as an intellectually lightweight populist, was a disaster waiting to happen; that her rise was symp-

tomatic of the party's lack of talent. She joined when most gifted young Swedes spurned the grey colossus of Social Democracy in favour of the right or far left.

Her job was to cut into unaffordable welfare structures while meeting the cameras with an unwavering gaze and to keep a pro-European course in a party plagued by Euroscepticism, less than a year after Sweden's EU entry. Her supposed youth appeal includes almost punk-style hair and a penchant for High Street fashion. Her salary is 660,000 kroner (£60,000) a year.

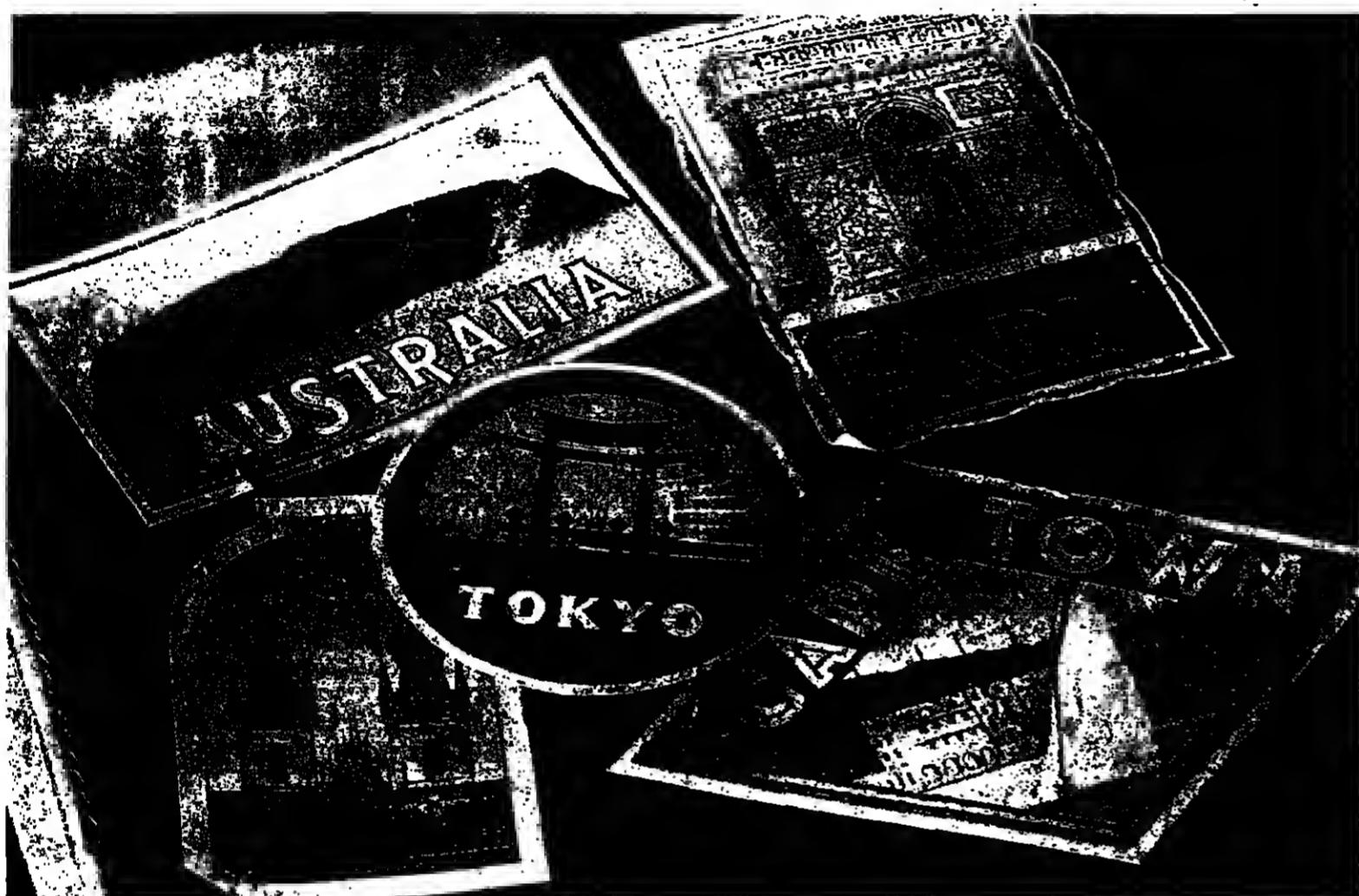
She lives with her husband and four children in a typical terrace in Stockholm's southern suburbs. Many Swedes do not understand how she could have run low on cash, and suspect bigger skeletons in the financial closet. Speculation now focuses on whether the Co-ordination Minister, Jan Nygren, or the Finance Minister, Goran Persson, will replace her.



Sahlin: Problems with bills



Moscow rescue: Anti-terrorist commandos storm a South Korean tourist bus in Red Square early yesterday, freeing the remaining four hostages from a total of 29 held at the start of a 10-hour stand-off. The lone hijacker was shot dead. Negotiators had earlier handed over more than \$1m. Photograph: Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP



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## High Noon for Berlusconi and the magistrates

ANDREW GUMBEL  
ROME

There was a touch of *High Noon* in the announcement at the weekend that Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian prime minister, is to stand trial on corruption charges. Starting on 17 January, the Milan criminal courts will be the venue for a final showdown pitting the media magnate-turned-politician against the magistrates whose investigations have derailed and possibly wrecked his ambitions to run the country.

To hear Mr Berlusconi talk, he sees himself as a lone sheriff preparing to do battle with the forces of evil — his argument being that the magistrates have a specific political agenda to destroy him. As far as the magistrates are concerned, they are out to establish not only Mr Berlusconi's guilt or innocence, but their credibility as dispassionate upholders of the law.

One thing is clear: the conflict has become so heated that only one side can hope to come out of the showdown alive. The issue has grown far beyond the basic judicial debate of whether Mr Berlusconi colluded in the bribing of a few tax inspectors in exchange for an easy audit of his Fininvest business empire.

At stake is the soul of Italy as it struggles to throw off the corrupted politics of the past and create a new, healthy democratic system.

Much has changed since Mr Berlusconi rose to power in the general elections of March 1994. At that time the judiciary were considered heroes for

sweeping away the old system. But then they turned their guns on the prime minister and the atmosphere quickly turned.

Mr Berlusconi accused the magistrates of trying to block progress and turn the clock back to the dark days of the past. The prime minister's opponents, by contrast, saw Mr Berlusconi as the true counter-revolutionary force, a man who had entered politics out to rescue Italy but his own personal interests.

The magistrates won the first round when the announcement of a formal investigation into Mr Berlusconi last November precipitated the collapse of his government. Round two, though, went to Mr Berlusconi: the most popular of the magistrates, Antonio Di Pietro, resigned for reasons yet to be elucidated and, along with his former colleagues, became the object of a sustained smear campaign. The "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive, meanwhile, lost momentum.

Round three, the announcement of Mr Berlusconi's trial, has been a close and potentially destabilising contest. On the one hand, Mr Di Pietro has made noises about entering politics and accused the former prime minister of riding roughshod over the country's institutional pillars to further his interests.

On the other, Mr Berlusconi has launched a sustained attack on the judiciary.

The next few months promise to be ugly as the country splits into opposing camps and the temperature of debate rises.

## Pressure on Claes to resign today

SARAH HELM  
Brussels

Willy Claes, Nato's secretary-general, will come under pressure to resign today when Nato ambassadors meet in Brussels. They will be assessing the damage caused to the alliance's credibility by the scandal in which Mr Claes is embroiled.

A Belgian parliamentary commission recommended on Saturday that Mr Claes, a government minister before he took over the Nato job, should face trial on corruption charges. On Thursday, the Belgian parliament will vote on whether to accept the commission's advice, thereby putting the chief of the world's most powerful military alliance in the dock.

It is clear that Nato is hoping Mr Claes will do the decent thing and offer his resignation. The longer he hangs on, the more embarrassing the situation becomes, said Brussels officials; this is likely to be spelled out to Mr Claes today.

Successors are being canvassed at Nato headquarters, with Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the former Danish foreign minister, emerging as favourite. Suggestions that Douglas Hurd, the former British foreign secretary, might take the job, are being played down as Mr Hurd probably does not want to leave his new lucrative City post.

The parliamentary commission ruling brought to a head months of speculation over Mr Claes's future. It is alleged that he knew about illegal payments to his Flemish Socialist Party by the Italian defence contractor, Agusta, in 1988, when he was

Belgium's economics minister. Mr Claes, known for his blunt-speaking style, has protested his innocence, but on Saturday he showed the first sign that he might have to resign. The Belgian newspaper *Dimanche Matin* yesterday quoted Mr Claes as saying he would not give up his Nato job before the full session of the Belgian parliament decided on Thursday whether to order a trial. He told the paper he was not sure if he could go before parliament to defend his case, as he did before the commission on Friday. "I have not decided yet... I have to think first."

Political figures have increasingly called for Mr Claes to stand down. "Nato is going through a difficult transformation process; this cannot be done with a broken-winged chairman... we cannot afford a 'Willygate', said Frits Boekstein, leader of the Dutch Liberal Party.

Andrew Marshall, page 21

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## international

**Million Man March:** Despite his anti-Semitic rants, thousands are expected to join Farrakhan in search of a new Black pride

# Protest marks failed dream of integration

JOHN CARLIN  
Washington

If Martin Luther King were alive to witness today's "Million Man March", he would weep.

The very fact that black men still feel compelled to gather in Washington under the leadership of a man like Louis Farrakhan, who uses hate as his main instrument of political persuasion, reveals how distant King's dream of racial integration remains.

It was King who led the last big civil rights march in Washington in August 1963. Then, 250,000 black and white men and women assembled to hear him deliver his "I have a dream" speech. Almost 100 years after the abolition of slavery, he said: "The Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land."

But he urged black people not to drink from "the cup of bitterness and hatred" in pursuing the dream, the dream that one day his children would "live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character".

Thirty-two years on, segregation has gone, blacks occupy positions of office around the land; a black man could be elected president of the United States next year.

Yet, most blacks continue to inhabit islands of poverty in America's vast ocean of material prosperity, and almost all black Americans, even those who have scaled the social ladder and escaped into the middle class, say they continue to feel the sting of racial prejudice.

What would have saddened King most is that black people, especially black men, have turned their resentment and their low self-esteem against each other. One in three black men in their twenties is under some form of police supervision.

Mr Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, conceived the idea of today's march following a vision he says he had of a dream of black men coming together in large numbers

to atone for their own sins and to make a pledge to rediscover the virtues of self-reliance and social responsibility.

The message has a broader appeal than the messenger. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has disowned the march because of Mr Farrakhan's commitment to black separation - he has called for "a state of our own" - his constant

well as doctors, lawyers and other professionals will join the throng today on Washington's social Mall.

In a television interview yesterday Mr Jackson did not disagree that Mr Farrakhan was an anti-Semite but said the cause of the march was bigger than its leader. "The real problem," he said, "is the disgraceful condition of the African-American community."

Two articles by black columnists in yesterday's *Washington Post* described today's march as an exercise primarily in recapturing the sense of pride and solidarity of the Sixties' civil rights movement.

Courland Molloy wrote that since the call came to participate in the "Million Man March" he had begun to see more black men smiling. "What's up brotherman? sure has a nice ring than the ominous, for-whom-the-bells-toll, 'What you lookin' at?'

Nathan McCall, author of an autobiography called *Makes Me Wanna Holler*, wrote that the march represented "a kind of therapy for black men". He said: "It offers a lot of things that we urgently need - a chance to come together and confront our shortcomings and celebrate our strengths; an opportunity for us to take stock of our current plight and plot a better future course; and, on a very basic level, a healthy way for black men to get a little bit of this tension off our chests."

Healthily therapeutic as the event itself may be, questions linger as to what will happen in the aftermath. Black women, for example, want to know whether many of their men's notoriously sexist attitudes will soften, and whether black fathers might start displaying a little more interest in nurturing their children and less, in some cases, in pursuing lives of crime.

And the broader question is that all America will be wondering is whether the march will serve merely as a springboard for Mr. Farrakhan's political career, or whether it might revitalise King's dream of transforming "the jangling discords of America into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood".

race-baiting, and his strategy of rallying political support around the idea of a common enemy. In a television interview broadcast on Friday he described some Jews, Palestinian Arabs, Koreans and Vietnamese as "bloodsuckers". His organisation's magazine recently proposed a legal prohibition on inter-racial marriages.

Yet, Jesse Jackson, a disciple of King, and other relatively mild black political leaders, as

rotting from within and showing signs of crumbling before it reaches 70 years in power.

Mr Camacho is the most prominent PRI member to desert since Cuanhtemoc Cardenas left in 1988 to launch a centre-left coalition which became the Democratic Revolution Party. That defection stunned the nation. Mr Cardenas ran for president and many, if not most, Mexicans believe he defeated the PRI candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, only to be robbed of victory by fraud.

Mr Cardenas's popularity has since slipped and Mr Camacho may well believe he can garner much of his support on the left, attract the moderate wing of the

rising conservative National Action Party and even create a new party from other PRI disidents and supporters.

Considered one of Mexico's shrewdest politicians - far more so than Mr Zedillo, a stand-in presidential candidate after the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio in March 1994 - Mr Camacho's timing could be a destructive blow to the PRI.

Political commentators in Mexico City said the defection of Mr Camacho, who only two years ago was widely tipped to be Mexico's next president, was a major blow to a party already

## Defection threatens grip of Mexico's ruling party

PHIL DAVISON  
Latin America Correspondent

After a series of nerve-jarring earthquakes last week, Mexicans were jolted at the weekend by a major political tremor: Manuel Camacho Solis, former presidential candidate, former Chiapas peace negotiator and a stalwart of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), had jumped ship.

Mr Camacho assailed the PRI, which has ruled Mexico since 1929, and implied he would form a new centrist coalition to run for president in 2000 - if the incumbent President Ernesto Zedillo lasts that long.

"I am already out of the PRI," Mr Camacho said in a brief statement. "I am in favour of real political change, a new political coalition, to lead us to an advanced democracy."

Political commentators in Mexico City said the defection of Mr Camacho, who only two years ago was widely tipped to be Mexico's next president, was a major blow to a party already

considered one of Mexico's shrewdest politicians - far more so than Mr Zedillo, a stand-in presidential candidate after the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio in March 1994 - Mr Camacho's timing could be a destructive blow to the PRI.

Mr Camacho's main problem may be his ego and ambition. After Mr Salinas, his old friend and mentor, passed over him and chose Mr Colosio as the PRI presidential candidate in 1993, Mr Camacho broke the party's traditional rule of silence and criticised the decision.

Still, Mr Salinas named him a peace negotiator with Zapatista guerrillas after the January 1994 uprising in the south-eastern state of Chiapas. The timing of the uprising and the assassination of Mr Colosio two months later led to a spate of conspiracy theories, some involving Mr Camacho, the now-disgraced Mr Salinas and/or long-time PRI hardliners.

During the initial Chiapas peace talks, Mr Camacho was receiving far more publicity than Mr Zedillo, then the presidential candidate. Possibly fearing some kind of coup against his candidacy, Mr Zedillo criticised Mr Camacho for his closeness with the Zapatista leader. An angry Mr Camacho quit as peace negotiator and laid low until this weekend.

## Quebec breakaway hopes rise

HUGH WINSOR  
Ottawa

For the first time since the campaign for Quebec sovereignty began in August, the separatist coalition appears to be gaining momentum. The upturn follows the campaigners' decision to play down plans to break away from Canada.

Two polls released at the weekend show the "Yes" side in the 30 October referendum had gained two or three percentage points over the past week, narrowing the federalist side's lead to less than five points. An average of the most recent polls gives the "Yes" side approximately 48 per cent of decided voters to the "No" side's 52 per cent. Because of the margin of error within the polls and an uncertainty about how to al-

locate the undecided voters, the numbers mean the two sides could actually be tied with two more weeks to go.

The turnaround in the polls follows a decision within the separatist coalition to replace the Quebec Premier, Jacques Parizeau, as the head of "Yes" campaign by the more moderate and more charismatic Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Quebecois, which forms the official opposition party in the Ottawa parliament.

Mr Parizeau has always been a hardline separatist but was forced earlier this year by Mr Bouchard and Mario Dumont, leader of the Parti Action Democratisante, the other members of the sovereignty coalition, to modify his proposal for an independent Quebec.

The referendum question

asks Quebecers to promote sovereignty followed by a formal offer of economic and political association with Canada. But Mr Parizeau lacked credibility trying to sell this option.

The federal government has indicated it might not accept the result because it did not clearly ask Quebecers if they wanted a separate country and polls indicated that 50 per cent of the electorate believe that Quebec would still send MPs to Ottawa, have Canadian passports and use the Canadian dollar.

The public focus on the Quebec question was diverted temporarily at the weekend as Mr Bouchard and Mario Dumont, leader of the Parti Action Democratisante, the other members of the sovereignty coalition, to modify his proposal for an independent Quebec.

The referendum question



Lost dream: Unlike Martin Luther King, Louis Farrakhan seems intent on using hate as his main political weapon

## Violinist driven by anger

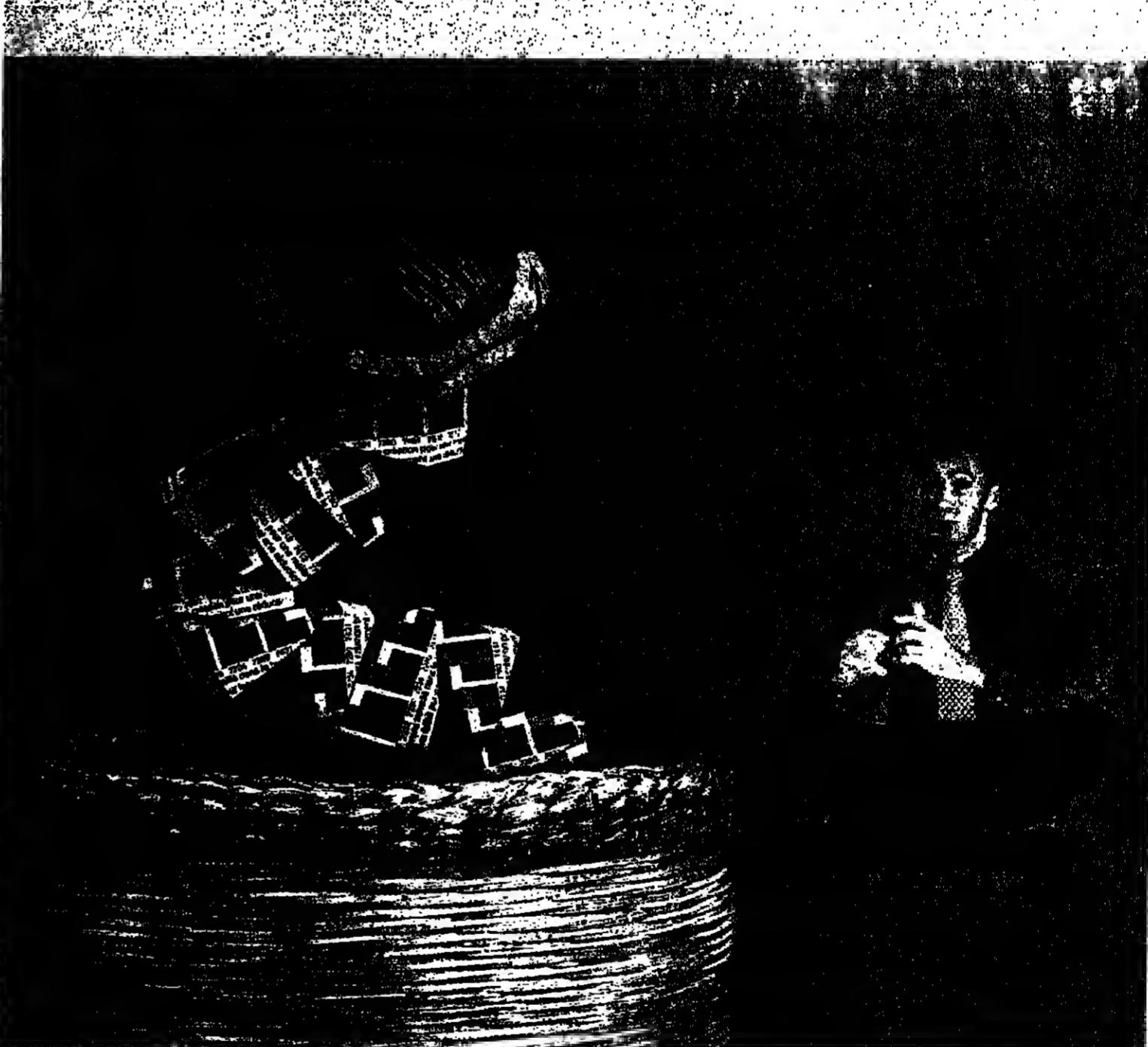
Louis Farrakhan, the incarnation of black American rage, is a lover of music, writes John Carlin.

A nightclub singer known as "Calypso Gene" before his conversion to the Nation of Islam in 1955, he likes to relax by playing the violin at home. Mendelssohn is a favourite.

The public Mr Farrakhan despises European culture and proclaims "African" Egypt to have been the source of mankind's greatest achievements, from art in mathematics. He bases his views on "the white race" on the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam, who proclaimed that whites "were not made to love or respect any member of the darker nations".

Mr Farrakhan, who was born in New York in 1934, uses racial anger as an instrument of political mobilisation and as a platform to develop a separatist message of black self-reliance. The level of crime in the black community, the destruction of the black family and the collapse of black education are causes for shame, he argues. Before seeking redress from the white establishment, he says, blacks must put their house in order.

While there is much in what Mr Farrakhan says that makes sense, his anti-Semitism turns many against him and denies him the possibility of emerging as the unifying "voice of the voiceless" that he aspires to be.



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## international

# Israel goes on offensive after six soldiers die

ERIC SILVER  
Jerusalem

Israel launched an intensive search-and-destroy operation in south Lebanon yesterday after the Shin Hizbullah militia killed six Israeli infantrymen and seriously wounded a seventh in an ambush in Israel's self-proclaimed South Lebanon security zone.

The escalation in this mini-war of attrition across Israel's last remaining "hot" frontier came as Israel tried to defuse Palestinian resentment at its wary implementation of the latest peace accord by advancing its evacuation of the seven biggest West Bank Arab towns.

The Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, announced after meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, Yasir Arafat, on the edge of the Gaza Strip that Israeli troops would pull out of Jenin, the first and most northerly of the towns, on 25 October - three weeks earlier than planned.

Israel now aims to hand over six of the towns by the end of

the year. Bethlehem, Mr Peres promised, would be under Palestinian control in time for Christmas - the first time it will not be under Israeli occupation since 1967. Elections to an 82-member Palestinian legislative council are now due to take place by 22 January - before Israel completes its redeployment in Hebron, the seventh and most volatile of the towns, where 450 Jews live amid 100,000 Palestinians. Israeli forces will retain responsibility for the settlers' security.

Yesterday's ambush near the village of Aishiyeh followed a similar attack last Thursday, which killed three soldiers. A total of 22 Israelis have now lost their lives in this fighting since the beginning of the year.

A massive bomb went off under the first of two armoured personnel carriers patrolling in the zone's eastern sector. Five members of the Golani infantry brigade were killed on the spot. A sixth died later of his wounds. A Hizbullah leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrullah, boasted afterwards that his men were in

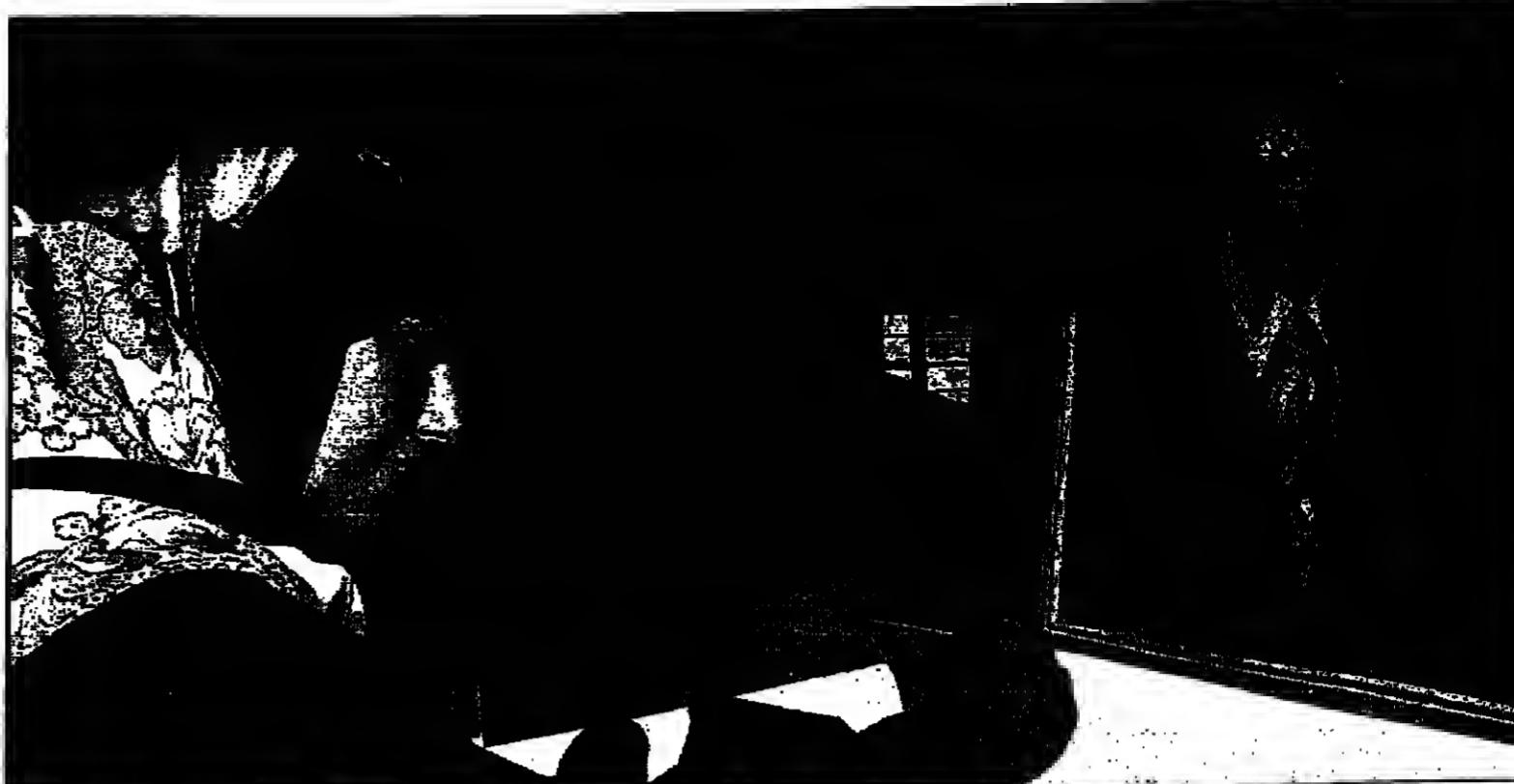
the advanced stages of a holy war against the Jewish state.

The Israeli Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, told reporters last night: "The Israel Defence Forces will hit Hizbullah whenever and wherever it feels it is right and it can be done. In the long war against Hizbullah, we have no limitations on our activities. Our units have been operating throughout the day in the area of the attacks. We shall continue these operations for some days."

General Shahak denied Lebanese reports that Israel was pouring heavy weapons into south Lebanon, as it did after a wave of attacks two years ago.

For the most part, he said, Israel was still honouring the undertaking it gave them not to bomb Lebanese villages.

But the Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, cancelled all his engagements yesterday to consult his security advisers and has summoned an emergency Cabinet meeting tomorrow after the Jewish festival of Succot. All his options remain open.



Watching eyes: An Iraqi woman casts her vote in front of a portrait of Saddam Hussein at a polling station in Baghdad yesterday. Photograph: Eric F Marti/AP

## Iraqis vote under Saddam's gaze

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Kirkuk, Iraq

Thirteen pictures of Saddam Hussein, dressed as an Arab sheikh, a baggy-trousered Kurd and a white-suited businessman, stared down on the 7,000 voters of the Arada district of Kirkuk as they cast their ballots yesterday in the local primary

school. A 14th picture of the Iraqi leader stood on the ballot box itself, into which voters pushed slips of paper on which they had ticked the "yes" or "no" box in answer to the question "Do you agree that Saddam Hussein should be the president of the Republic of Iraq?"

The sayings of the Iraqi leader adorned the walls of the school gymnasium. Mahmoud Faish al-Haza, a teacher of English for 15 years, pointed to a slogan which read: "Tell the truth without flattery."

Saddam has an authoritarian state devoted such resources to the trappings of democracy. By yesterday evening 8 million Iraqis should have gone to their local polling station and cast a

vote endorsing Saddam Hussein for another seven years. "Two or three hours after the polls close we shall phone the results to Baghdad," said Salem Mahomed Kebabchi, one of the electoral officials in Kirkuk.

The real aim behind the referendum is clear enough. Two months ago Uday Hussein, President Saddam's eldest son, opened fire with his sub-machine gun at a party in Baghdad, wounding his uncle, Walban, and forcing his military officer brothers-in-law, Hussein Kamel and Saddam Kamel, to flee to Jordan with their wives, the president's eldest daughters.

"People held private parties throughout Baghdad because they believed the regime was

wobbling," said an Iraqi. The point of the referendum, yesterday was to demonstrate that they were wrong.

In Kirkuk, a city of 400,000 three hours drive north-east of Baghdad, there is a slight undercurrent of tension in the air. During the 1991 uprising Kurdish forces briefly captured it, only to be driven out by the Iraqi army a few weeks later. Many of the Kurds in Kirkuk left and still have not returned.

There are few signs of the fighting visible today. Asked who they were the majority in the city, Mr Kebabchi at first said "Arabs". But, added after consultation with other officials: "It does not matter if people are Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans, or

Christians because all are Iraqis under the leadership of Saddam Hussein."

As the place where oil was first discovered in Iraq in 1927, Kirkuk is also the centre of the northern oil fields, of which the Kurds claim they have been deprived by systematic Arabisation of the province.

In Kirkuk, the personality cult of Saddam is even more overwhelming than in Baghdad. In the Arada Primary School, for instance, there is a board, in place before the election, on which schoolgirls have written love-letters and made birthday cards for the president. It faces a large mural of an Iraqi soldier beneath another quoting the leader: "Victory is sweet."

## Ibo warrior who made his peace

Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, who visits Britain this week, is the man who led secessionist Biafra to war and disaster 28 years ago. To some Nigerians - and particularly the Ibo - he is a courageous and heroic figure. To others he is a self-seeking opportunist who squandered hundreds of thousands of innocent lives, then sold out to the very people he had fought.

Almost a million people died in Biafra's three-year struggle for independence from Nigeria, which ended 25 years ago, a conflict described by the Red Cross as "one of the major human disasters of this century".

Chief Ojukwu (aka "Emeka") was 34 and the military governor of the federal republic's Eastern Region when, in May 1967, he proclaimed its independence from Nigeria. The move followed the region's steadily deteriorating relations with the government of Lieutenant Colonel Yakubu Gowon, which refused to take action after northerners massacred thousands of Ibos who had settled in the Northern Region.

Today, aged 61, Chief Ojukwu is "a free and ordinary citizen of Nigeria". He divides his time between Lagos (the commercial capital), Abuja (the federal capital) and Enugu (the erstwhile Biafran capital).

"History has not lied me," he said before his departure for



Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu

London. "I'm held in high respect and consulted on many subjects, not just by my own people but also by the government. I have cordial relations with General Abacha and many others in the military."

It is hard to believe that General Ojukwu, who in the late Sixties fought to resist the forces of another military dictator, and Chief Ojukwu, the placatory patriarch, are one person. But the former freedom fighter is committed to working with the Abacha regime in the context of a united Nigeria.

"There are many who want to fan the embers of ethnic discord," said Chief Ojukwu in the patrician tones he acquired at Oxford. "But the Ibo people want a system which embraces all Nigerians."

Chief Ojukwu was a member of the Ibo community, scattered in the south-east of Nigeria, and minor in number.

On that day, General Abacha, in power for nearly two years, announced it would be at least another three years before Nigeria would be returned to democracy and civilian rule.

"I do not support the military government as such," said Chief Ojukwu. "but I cannot wish away the fact that it's in power. I believe we must try to ease the military out but there must be no risk of bloodshed."

His aversion to bloodshed is understandable. The civil war, which broke out in July 1967 with the invasion of the Eastern Region by government troops, was particularly vicious, fuelled by imported modern weaponry. Outnumbered by more than four to one, the Biafran army was doomed. As federal advances, millions of Ibo fled into the bush where they were cut off from supplies by a naval blockade. By October 1968, the Red Cross estimated 10,000 Biafrans, mostly children, were daily dying from starvation.

DAVID ORR

## Filipina maid's family thanks victim's son

MICHAEL GEORGY  
Reuters

Al-Ain — The family of Sarah Balabagan, the 16-year-old Filipina maid condemned to death in the United Arab Emirates for killing her employer, yesterday thanked the family of the man she killed for sparing their daughter from execution.

"We want to convey our sincerest gratitude to the family," Sarah's mother, Bai, said in the house in this oasis town where her daughter stabbed Almas

Mohammad al-Baloushi to death last year. "We will never forget in what you have done," the maid's father, Karim, told the dead man's eldest son, Faraj. "I want to convey that we are grateful for your decision."

The families stopped tea together during a half-hour meeting. Obeid Baloushi, a son of the dead man, said later: "Anything the government wants I will accept. I can't do otherwise. They told us to forgive. We can't say no."

The Baloushi family dropped

their demand that the death sentence, imposed four weeks ago, be carried out.

They relented on Saturday in return for \$41,000 blood money after the intervention of Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the UAE.

Under Islamic law, the family of a murder victim can accept compensation instead of execution of the killer.

Sarah Balabagan was condemned to death at a retrial for the murder of Baloushi last year. At her first trial, she was sentenced to seven years, but Sheikh Zaid ordered a retrial.

Sarah argued she acted in self-defence during a rape when she stabbed Baloushi 34 times.

But in the retrial, she was convicted of premeditated murder rather than manslaughter and sentenced to die.

The court also overturned the earlier verdict that she had been raped. What happened next was not clear. Her appeal against the death sentence has been adjourned until 30 October.

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# A political vision on the road to Blackpool

John Major's belief that Britain should become the 'enterprise centre of Europe' could be effective, unifying and distinctive

Politicians launch and relaunch their political visions so often that it can be hard to tell the difference between a statement that seriously defines an effective national mission and a bland slogan. Often the politicians themselves do not appear to know which they are offering, because there is a constant temptation to take a slogan and dress it up as a philosophy.

But in the case of John Major's new vision for Britain as the "enterprise centre of Europe", it is the reverse deception which holds. It looks as though he has presented us with a statement of the bleeding obvious in asserting what it is he

wants for the country (after all, you are unlikely to hear Tony Blair argue that we should be on the eastern periphery of Europe). But, in fact, Mr Major has actually outlined a political creed that could be effective, unifying and distinctive.

So: what does it mean to relaunch Britain as the enterprise centre of Europe?

Of course, it means making Britain the European home for international business. That will clearly define our relationships with the United States and the Far East. As Mr Major was speaking on Friday, the Korean company Samsung was entertaining the Queen in

Middlesbrough, where she was launching a new factory.

This is exactly the kind of thing the Prime Minister has in mind. At the same time, of course, it defines our relationship with the rest of Europe: as a matter of logic, we have to be in Europe in order to be in the centre of it; as a matter of practicality, we must be in it if we want the Samsungs to continue to park themselves here.

Enterprise Britain also means making Britain the centre of business and commercial services in Europe. For example, probably more symbolic of our national comparative advantage than the new Samsung plant on Teesside was the announcement on Friday, that the company is relocating its European headquarters from Frankfurt to London - where accountants, lawyers, advertisers, telecommunications providers, software writers and financiers are to be found in relative abundance.

Given the natural advantage of language, London must rank as the most attractive city in Europe for firms to place their management function. Serving those headquarters is work we like doing and work we do well.

Another element of the grand design of making Britain an enterprise centre means taking the country a little way down the road towards the more aggressive capitalism of Hong Kong and the United States. That means smaller government, lower taxes and probably less welfare. It also means doing our best to promote free trade - in Europe and now, according to Malcolm Rifkind, across the Atlantic.

Finally, making Britain an enterprise centre means making Britain entrepreneurial and promoting the wealth creators - by abolishing taxes such as capital gains and inheritance tax that stifle enterprise, abolishing red tape, and removing the hand of bureaucratic control (in the form of both local education and health authorities) from our public services.

Much of it sounds rather attractive. Certainly, as a guiding objective it is far more appealing to liberal-minded folk than any of the competing visions for the soul of the Conservative Party. It also passes the three key tests of political mission statements. It is distinct - it is not something that everybody could wholeheartedly support, so it distinguishes the party from the others. It is unifying - in that it has one central idea which acts as a vehicle for policies in a whole raft of areas. And it is meaty - there are practical proposals that follow from it.

Moreover, as a political relaunch it also succeeds in giving a fresh face to Conservative policies without actually reversing them. From the abolition of exchange controls, to the (embarrassing) repackaging of the Department of Trade and Industry as the Department of Enterprise, the Tories have always aimed to make Britain a business-friendly nation. No one can accuse them of contriving a new conviction for themselves.

So, you have heard the speech,

you think you like the slogan... now, what about the manifesto? Just how does Mr Major or, indeed, anyone else actually make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe? This, I fear, may not be so easy.

The reason why not all countries have already transformed themselves into what Mr Major wants to turn us into is that, in practice, many of the policy elements of the programme are deeply unattractive in the execution, or limited in their effects.

Take first the idea that we should be the nation of inward investment. This is a very Michael Heseltine view of the enterprise mission. But much

kind of 'investment we attract is hardly the kind that relies on paying wages of less than £4 an hour. Indeed, foreign companies in the UK pay for higher wages, on average, than UK employers.

One of the great contributions of foreign settlement here - like Nissan in Sunderland - has been to demonstrate to British employers - such as Rover - that treating staff as commodities is a poor way of motivating them. Paying poverty wages and putting workers in unsafe conditions is not in the style of large, profitable international companies. They are far more prevalent in small, unprofitable local companies.

If Mr Major's caricature of Heseltine economics can offer only limited advances for our nation, then what about the other element of the grand design - that we should be the business services capital of Europe? One should not overstate the gains to be made in this direction. And one should not underestimate the political challenges in pursuing it.

The ideas that must be championed to keep Britain in the centre of things would not naturally fall on to the agenda of a Conservative Party conference. They include continuing improvements to public transport, shifting the burden of tax from business to individuals, the freer movement of people across borders and, above all, a clear commitment to stay right in the heart of Europe. Michael Howard would not be so concerned with endlessly drafting new criminal justice bills; he would use his authority in the Home Office to shorten the disgraceful and time-wasting queues at Heathrow immigration control - queues which make it less attractive to land here than it ought to be.

As a country, we should not be considering imposing fines on employers who hire foreigners, nor should we be in the business of fining international broadcasters (as we did MTV recently) for breaching domestic television regulations. We should be making ourselves hospitable - acting as a salesman rather than a regulator.

There is no strong lobby in the Conservative Party for these kinds of policies - and for several of them there is a strong lobby against. Indeed, it is possible that Labour would find it easier to champion the liberal internationalism that underpins them than the Conservatives.

How about that goal of making Britain a little more like Hong Kong? It is this that John Redwood has in mind when he talks about Enterprise Britain. The problem with this route is that there is simply no appetite among the British public, or among the Conservative Party, for such a route to be followed to its logical end. Removing income support and the health service are simply not on the agenda. If anything, Hong Kong is more likely to move in our direction, now it has achieved a high level of per capita GDP, rather than the reverse.

Certainly, there is a consensus in the Conservative Party that we can move in the direction of deregulation and individualisation - but not

to a degree that will fundamentally alter the structure of the economy. So, while Enterprise Britain might be a great concept and while it might pass the important tests of a successful mission statement, Mr Major will still have his work cut out designing the programme of government that would follow from it. He may well be distracted by the temptations of populism - fundamentally inconsistent with Enterprise Britain - on the way. In practice, what he will achieve for the economy, at best, is a modest set of measures that enhance Britain's natural position as a global, outward-looking nation and slightly enhance the GDP.

Politically, however, the prize could be greater. In a year in which the banton of "fat cat" debate has led the Government into a surprising and extreme form of defensiveness, the public could again be made to see the sense of Conservative pro-business policies. Certainly, the Tories can now argue, the policies may make for some pugilistic felines - but all in a good cause.

If they can, then it may be Labour which finds itself as the party in the greatest need of a positive economic creed.

Evan Davis is a BBC economics correspondent.



EVAN DAVIES  
Most politicians take a slogan and call it philosophy: John Major has done the opposite

of the high-profile new investment that has arrived of late has been induced to settle here by the largesse of the tax-payer. The subsidy offered to firms such as Ford and Siemens is probably the only form of welfare hand-out to foreigners the Conservative Party still supports. In any event, it hardly resonates with the bulk of what the Tories regard as free-market values.

There is another problem with inward investment. There simply is not enough of it to build a prosperous and successful life for everybody, and there never will be. In 1993-94, for example, 404 foreign companies

decided to invest in operations here.

Government figures suggest they

have created 96,000 jobs. But in any one

year, something like 9 per cent of UK jobs turn over - are created and destroyed. So, while 96,000 sounds

a lot, it is only a small proportion of

the two and a half million generated

each year - for every £1 they invest in

us, we invest about £15 ourselves.

In any case, the contribution by

foreigners to Britain's capital stock

is not great enough to offset the rela-

tive lack of investment that has

characterised our economy since

the war. Enterprise, our European

partners know, like charity, starts at

home.

Even if we did strive to be the

developed world's biggest net

importer of capital, it is still not clear

how you actually go about achieving

that. The Government is fond of saying

that Japanese and Korean

investors are keen to invest in the

UK because we have opted out of

Brussels regulation and do not have a

minimum wage. But, in fact, the



## Diary

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS

The What-is-the-World-Coming-to? Department this week contains gloomy reading from the London Library's Annual Report about thriving members (and unprecedented security arrangements), but there's some reassuring news that England is still England.

"The library's memory is long," records the Librarian, "but not so long as to have kept it in mind that a volume of Lord Albermarle's *Memories of Rockingham and his Contemporaries*, long since replaced, was still in orbit. Shortly after publication in 1852, it had been taken out by a nobleman. Last summer, during a shelf-check of a country house library in Yorkshire, it came to light and some 140 years later the borrower's descendants returned it to St James's Square with due apologies."

"Have you seen it before?" asked the tenant of my affections last Wednesday, bouncing excitedly at having unexpectedly secured us tickets for the English National Opera's *Carmen*. Slightly abashed, I admitted that the nearest I'd got had been the movie version of Oscar Hammerstein's all-black *Carmen Jones*, in which the love-crazed, tragic Don Jose - played by Harry Belafonte - was transmogrified into a GI.

"Now none of your hoity-toitiness," I warned. "*Carmen Jones* was wonderful. I still remember it vividly." So I was a bit upset when I looked it up in my guide to Hollywood musicals

and saw the film described as a "torrid musical melodrama" full of "two-dimensional stereotypes... always at odds with the glorious music". However, I was only 10 when I saw it, so perhaps I can be forgiven such a lapse of taste.

The ENO *Carmen* was glorious, although Don Jose was small and perfectly formed rather than hunkish, and I kept expecting the mid-imperial century Spaniards to break into such Hammerstein lyrics as "Beat Out Dat Rhythm on a Drum". It was in the middle of the night that it suddenly came to me that the time is ripe for a remake of *Carmen Jones* and that OJ Simpson is available.

A transatlantic mole faxed me an invitation issued by the Oxford Society of Washington ("This outpost of Oxford University in the nation's capital") to a sherry reception and afternoon tea in honour of the "most brilliant and courageous Irish historian of his generation" - my friend Roy Foster, Professor of Irish History at Oxford - at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel next Saturday. The charge for the sherry reception and afternoon tea is \$25.50 per person, which includes a sherry and mineral water bar and a beautiful and delicious three-course (seated and served) "Afternoon Tea Meal", during which "Oxians can expect a memorable visit and

speech". I served my Oxbridge time in Cambridge, where the dons were certainly no strangers to gluttony, but even at the sybaritic Peterhouse, where Michael Portillo acquired his winning ways, they did not go in for sherry and three-course teas at 2.30pm.

And here are two shots at what Mike Bradshaw describes as a "pteroinducty". First Sebastian Robinson:

Sputtering feebly, the

Stratford Conservatives

Learned that their Member had

Shown them the door:

"Tells all the Sundays quite

Undiplomatically -

Treads on our toes while he's

Crossing the Floor."

And then Mike's sombre warning:

Conservative Chairman

Smiling malevolence

Now the majority's

Fallen to five,

Exceedingly doubtful

Stratford chameleon

Crossing the Commons can

Make it alive.

I know that Hampstead is a

foreign country and they do things

differently there, but because it's in

London and a handful of my best

friends live there I forget its

essential otherness. Yesterday

morning, recollecting (in whatever is

the hangover equivalent of

tranquillity) the argument at a

dinner there between me and my

Gucci-socialist host, I recalled the

conversation with my Hampstead

friends Jill and Lewis which best

sums up the place:

"Why, oh why, do you live in W35

or wherever it is?" asked Lewis one day. "Come and live near us."

"I don't want to," I whinged. "I like

living among real people."

"Perhaps darling," snapped Jill,

who is a licensed Hampstead bolshie,

"when Ruth comes out of her house

in the morning she doesn't

necessarily want to bump into three

psychoanalysts and a lady novelist."

Ruth Howarth has been

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# INDEPENDENT

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## Boxing: the final blow?

On Friday night a man was pummeled to death watched by hundreds of people, including rows of black-tie diners and crowds of chanting drunkards. As he fell to the ground, a riot broke out, and several members of the audience smeared their chests with the dead man's blood.

With concern visibly mounting with each new death or maiming, it is difficult to believe that boxing can survive unscathed. The outright banning of boxing would be hard to justify in the face of the enthusiasm of the boxers and their audiences, but those who support the sport should think carefully about the price of their continuing fun.

The dead man, James Murray, was a consenting adult. He knew he faced pain and injury, and risked brain damage or death, but he walked into a boxing ring nevertheless. High risk in itself is not enough to justify banning someone from doing something – so long as they are aware of exactly what the dangers are. But boxing is not just one more dangerous sport like mountaineering and motor racing, where the aim is to achieve something in spite of the risk of injury. In boxing, injury itself is the objective. The very aim of each move is to harm – to punch a man so hard that he can't stand up again.

Boxing's enthusiastic audience – though distressed by the weekend's events – will defend the sport to the hilt. It is a highly skilled encounter of attack, feint and counter-attack, spotting the opponent's

weaknesses and disguising your own. It is a test of immense bravery and of physical endurance under round after round of beatings.

But no matter how much you admire the skill of the fighters, or how much you romanticise the story of each fight, the fact remains that these are two men trying to inflict serious injuries upon each other, and far too often succeeding. The question for boxing's advocates is whether the positive side of the sport justifies the negative, or whether elements of the game should be sacrificed to make it safer.

There are several possibilities. The art and skill of the ducking and diving would be preserved in a three- or five-round fight. Even a 10-round fight, rather than the present 12 rounds, would reduce the chance that exhausted boxers will receive damaging blows to the brain. It is true that these kinds of reforms would remove the test of endurance involved in fighting to the bitter end – but that may be a necessary sacrifice. Another possible change would be to outlaw punches to the head. Again, this would alter the sport in a fairly profound way.

As yet there is little sign of waning support for boxing. Yet the outcry is growing tangibly with each new tragedy. After watching 11 championship fights in the past 10 years end in serious brain damage or death, it must be time to change the nature of the sport – what would be lost is not worth people dying for.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lilley's demolition of the asylum process

From Mr David Bull

Sir: The conference season may produce many empty promises, but there is unlikely to be one more hollow than the Social Security Secretary's claim that the UK will continue "to help genuine refugees" ("Lilley to curb benefits for asylum-seekers", 12 October). The measures announced yesterday by Peter Lilley amount to an effective demolition of the asylum process, and therefore an abdication of the Government's responsibilities under international law.

Those fleeing persecution are not, of course, familiar with the complexities of UK immigration law and, accordingly, many have legitimate and wholly understandable reasons for applying for asylum only after entering the country, rather than immediately upon arrival. Having experienced state oppression first hand, and possibly still traumatised as a result, they may be fearful of authority and hopeful of seeking the help and support of friends, relatives and advice agencies before putting their fate in the hands of officials.

Mr Lilley's blanket curb on in-country applicants' access to benefits makes no allowance for this, and therefore constitutes a wholly unjustifiable deterrence to such genuine asylum claims.

From Mr E. P. Mayne

Sir: Peter Lilley went at length in his Blackpool speech about the abuse of the benefits system by alleged bogus asylum seekers. As an immigration consultant, I have as clients a small number of asylum seekers. Most of them have been waiting a long time for the Home Office to decide on their cases; some of these have been successful while the Home Office bureaucrats make up their minds about their future.

I have on my books a couple from a West African state who arrived in England in December 1987 and sought asylum. The wife at the time was pregnant and since they have been granted limited leave of entry, they have become the parents of four children, the oldest of which will be eligible for British citizenship in two years' time. To date, the couple haven't even been interviewed.

While I accept that Mr Lilley does have a point, perhaps it might be prudent for him to direct his attacks towards the Home Secretary whose department is primarily responsible for this situation.

Yours faithfully,  
E. P. MAYNE  
GPA Consultancy Services  
Citizenship and Immigration  
Consultants  
Guildford, Surrey

### New universities underfunded

From Mr David Triesman

Sir: The finding ("Teaching at new universities fails to make the grade", 12 October) that ratings for teaching excellence tend to coincide with research excellence is unsurprising. The ethos of a university largely depends on the interrelation between research and teaching. The traditional universities have, traditionally, been funded to undertake research alongside teaching both undergraduates and post-graduate students. The new universities have not benefited from that tradition to the same degree, despite many important initiatives often supported by the enthusiasm of their staff.

There is much evidence to suggest that the new universities could more successfully contribute to the research and development powerhouse of UK plc, given the appropriate resources.

The special earmarked "development research" fund needs to be enhanced significantly to allow the new universities a fairer share of research resources. The process, however, must involve additional resources and not be part of a robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul, robbing-old-to-pay-new, process. That would be government shooting itself in both feet. It would be absurd to diminish the quality of research in the older universities both because of its intrinsic value and its contribution to teaching excellence.

Research is investment in the nation's future. Good investment pays for itself. Universities, old and new, are starved of resources, which affects not just the development

ment of the nation's wealth but also what its people achieve through higher education teaching.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID TRIESMAN  
General Secretary, Association of University Teachers  
London, W1

From Mr Raymond H. Brinskill

Sir: Fran Abrams correctly states

"in chemistry, computer science

and history, only one department

in the entire former polytechnic

sector was found to be excellent".

As head of that one department, I am well placed to comment on the assumption that teaching quality is directly related to research rating. High research ratings attract additional funding which enable a higher level of resource to be deployed. It is likely that teaching quality is directly related to total funding rather than research rating.

The recent quality assessment exercise carried out in computer science at Scottish universities concluded that the computer science teaching was underfunded across all Scottish universities. As a result, Scottish universities have been given additional funds. Since only 10 per cent of computer science departments assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England were rated excellent, it is apparent that funding for computer science in all institutions needs to be increased.

Yours faithfully,

RAYMOND H. BRINSKILL

Dean, School of Computing and Mathematics

University of Teesside

Middlesbrough, Cleveland

### CSA performance has improved

From Mr Tony Ward

Sir: Although Polly Toynbee's article ("Why single mothers baffle Mr Lilley", 11 October) raised a number of interesting discussions, I am disappointed to see that she is recycling the same misinformed comparisons about the amounts of money collected by the Child Support Agency and the "old system", as she describes it.

The agency's performance has improved dramatically since the difficult first year of operation, and over £187m child maintenance was paid in 1994-95 as a direct result of CSA action. Of this, £138m went to parents looking after children.

Our work that year also saved taxpayers some £479m that would otherwise have been paid in

Social Security benefits. For 1995-96, we are on track to achieve the arrangement or collection of £300m in maintenance, and we forecast savings to the taxpayer of some £50m.

We have not abandoned anybody, let alone the difficult cases. To date, we have traced nearly 100,000 absent parents whose whereabouts were previously unknown. We are publicly committed to recommending work before the end of 1995 on cases where we deferred action at the end of last year so that we could effectively tackle those cases where the absent parent is trying to avoid their financial liability. Hardly a fiasco or an organisation on the verge of collapse.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY WARD

Director of Operations  
Child Support Agency  
London, SW1  
13 October

### Lottery link

From Dr Neil Chalmers

Sir: Lord Gowrie is right to urge the Prime Minister to keep his promise that National Lottery funding will not replace existing government spending (Another View, 11 October). Unfortunately, it is all too likely that this promise will not be kept. Virginia Bottomley may well be opposed to William Waldegrave's idea of lottery-funded endowments for the arts, but she is asking chairmen and directors of national museums and galleries funded by the Department of National Heritage to plan for a 3 per cent cut in grant-in-aid funding in 1997-98.

There has also been a decline in real terms in the grant-in-aid that the Natural History Museum, among others, has experienced in recent years, and a more immediate cut in the coming financial year is threatened. Given that museums and galleries are vital to one of the few growth areas of Britain, namely leisure and tourism, this policy goes directly against the Government's intention to increase wealth generation and improve the quality of life.

The link between the arrival of the lottery and the decline in government funding seems to me to be inescapable. The lottery is being used to replace government funding by the back door.

Yours sincerely,  
NEIL CHALMERS

Director  
Natural History Museum  
London, SW1

### Need to speak and write English

From Mr Ian Small

Sir: Gillian Shepherd's "new" initiative to record oral scores at GCSE English is actually nothing new at all ("Shepherd to penalise 'grunting' youngsters", 12 October). Until 1993, GCSE English grades did record both a written and oral component. Then the National Curriculum Council in its wisdom (led, sad to say, by an English specialist) cancelled that information and helpful addition, against the advice of professional English teachers and the Headmasters' Conference who felt that the different qualities of spoken and written English should be properly recognised.

Boys and girls need to be able to use the language effectively in both its written and spoken forms, in order to demonstrate their competence. So we are delighted that Mrs Shepherd is returning to good practice and good sense. With some luck we may soon see the return of a proper valuation of GCSE course work (which diminished on the whim of John Major)?

I shall be quite happy to make the case for that either orally or in writing, whichever Mrs Shepherd would prefer.

Yours faithfully,

IAN SMALL

Headmaster

Bootham School

York

12 October

### Wartime history of the SAS

From Mr Sydney Hudson

Sir: As a wartime operational member of the organisation on which the SAS was founded – the Special Operations Executive – I read the report of Michael Portillo's speech to the Conservative conference with some amusement ("Portillo whips up national frenzy", 11 October).

In his admiring references to the SAS, Mr Portillo forgot to mention that the SOE was established on the instructions of Winston Churchill with the specified objectives of "setting Europe ablaze".

The task was to be carried out by initiating and supporting the various national resistance groups operating against Nazi occupation and tyranny. It seems strange that the present Secretary of State for Defence appears now to regard the SAS as a symbol of British resistance against the eventualities of Continental aggression.

I would like to add that, in those distant days of the underground struggle, the vision of a Europe united for peace was a tenet of the belief in a better world to come which inspired many resistance fighters. To some, who still survive, this ideal remains very much alive.

Yours sincerely,

SYDNEY HUDSON

Special Forces Club

London, SW1

### Analysis of the pulsar discovery

From Professor A. Hewish, FRS

Sir: Allow me to correct an untrue statement about the pulsar discovery, ascribed to John Maddox and quoted by Paul Vallely in his article (News Analysis: "The Nobel art of picking winners", 10 October) on the Nobel awards. He writes...

... though Hewish was director of the project, it was a research assistant, Jocelyn Bell, who did the actual work.

The actual work involved a sky survey of scintillating radio galaxies which I conceived and for which I designed and built a new radio telescope especially sensitive to rapid changes of source intensity. Jocelyn ran the survey and reported an unusual source showing strong intensity variations, apparently changing its position by about one degree and sometimes disappearing for several days.

I decided to investigate more closely using a high-speed recorder which Jocelyn operated and recorded the first pulses. I then analysed the pulse phase which gave more accurate position data and found that the position was actually constant.

I set up and made the timing measurements which showed the incredible precision of the pulses and I exploited this, via the Doppler effect to confirm that the signals could not be from intelligent beings on a distant planet – a possibility that could not be ignored. I also organised measurements of the radio spectrum which enabled me to estimate the distance of the source.

There was more to the discovery than is often realized from popular accounts of the work.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTONY HEWISH  
Department of Physics  
University of Cambridge  
Cambridge  
11 October

### Unremunerated

From Dr R. Davies

Sir: Nicola Jayne Euston (Letters, 12 October) should be aware that most NHS consultants do contribute much of their work on a *pro bono* basis, by working in excess of their contracted hours for no additional remuneration.

Yours faithfully,

R. DAVIES

Cardiff

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Andrea Stuart is a lecturer in cultural studies at Central St Martin's College, London.

Mr Farrakhan is the most recent in a

## comment

## The right climate for tax on fuel

Scientific consensus about global warming is growing so why are the politicians unable to act?

At the end of this year an obscure but important body called the Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change will publish a fat report on the science of global warming.

If the IPCC's draft version leaked on to the internet last month is anything to go by this United Nations document will show that the scientific consensus is strengthening: pollution is very likely to alter climate over much of the earth's surface in the next century. The scientists are saying that we are probably seeing this already, in the run of exceptionally warm years in the 1980s and 1990s. This year will also turn out to be an unusually hot one, not just in Britain but in terms of average temperatures around the globe.

When the final version of the IPCC science report is released the qualifications will be there. One hundred per cent certainty cannot be provided for systems as complex as the earth's atmosphere, oceans, ice-caps and life, which all interact in shaping the planet's response to humanity's massive intervention.

But even the qualified conclusions will be sufficient to spark an explosion of alarming and vivid headlines. It's a funny business, this global warming. Most of the time the media and society ignore the issue. Every now and then we have big stories warning us that sea levels will rise and tropical plagues spread as temperatures rise. Droughts and floods will become more common. Then, not quite as frequently, we get the big debunking

pieces which tell us that another group of scientists has disproved global warming and it is all a big scare.

So what are we to conclude from all this? And what measures would be sensible for modern industrial societies to take in the face of continuing uncertainty about a threat that was first recognised almost 100 years ago, when Sven Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, made the first prediction about man-made global warming?

In 1896 Arrhenius calculated that if the burning of fossil fuels doubled the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, then temperatures would rise by around 5 degrees Centigrade.

In the 99 years since then we have frantically burnt coal, oil and gas, and we can be sure that if we go on at present rates the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide will, midway through the next century, reach double pre-industrial levels. We also now know that we are adding several other kinds of "greenhouse gas" to the atmosphere - methane, CFCs - which are even better than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the lower atmosphere.

But although the hundreds of climate scientists who contribute to the IPCC have made much progress in the past decade in understanding what we are doing to the planetary thermostat, they are still at least five years away from giving a precise estimate of how rapidly average global temperatures will rise.

They are fairly certain that Arrhenius's alarming 5 degrees for a

number-crunching supercomputers they now employ for their simulations of the world's changing atmosphere and oceans.

This is high science, involving dozens of research groups which collaborate and debate. It is not the kind of work that throws out an abrupt consensus, when suddenly everyone can agree that pollution has already caused this much climate change and will go on to do that much more in the next x years. It churns out probabilities, not pat answers.

Those with vested interests watch this unfold, then put their own spin on things. The USA's gigantic fossil fuel industry, along with oil exporters like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, play up the uncertainties. Their lobbyists stoop to suggesting that the scientists exaggerate in order to get their research grants.

Some environmentalists, meanwhile, suggest that every extreme weather incident is a manifestation of man-made climate change - forgetting that at any one time extreme and unusual weather is being experienced somewhere in the world. The nuclear power industry also likes global warming because it generates electricity with far less of the "greenhouse gas" pollution of its fossil fuel rivals.

The media simply wants good, strong stories. So climate change is either very serious, or a scare, or off the agenda.

While the scientists plod ahead in trying to ascertain the threat, the sensible response is not to do nothing, relying on adapting to climate change once it happens. It is to take measures that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels without harming the economy.

These so-called "no regrets" measures are a moral as well as a rational response to the threat, which is why many politicians advocate them. The problem, as ever, is that they tend to pay lip service to them.

Take one example close to home. At a time when the real cost of household energy is falling (gas and electricity bills are coming down) there is an excellent environmental case for placing higher taxes on fossil fuels. That would encourage people to use less of them and curb pollution.

The revenue raised should first be used to make sure those worst affected (the poor and the elderly) can keep warm in winter, by installing better insulation and more efficient heating systems. The second call on this revenue should be to reduce taxes that keep people out of work, such as income tax and employers' National Insurance contributions.

But what do we get? A botched, enormously controversial introduction of VAT on electricity and gas in which no politician seriously advocated the environmental case. The Government introduced it simply because it needed to raise the money, and Labour is hiding at getting rid of it simply to raise votes. And the bigger picture of a planet in real danger is ignored.

## Kipling's best with added zest

I was extremely surprised to learn that the favourite poem of the British is Kipling's "If". Actually, I do not believe it is the favourite poem of the British. I think if you took volume of sales rather than a telephone poll as your guideline, you would find that the poem most often bought by the British is in a greetings card and goes along this sort of line:

*On your very special day,*

*We wish you all the best,*

*And if you plan to go away,*

*Don't forget your vest.*

No one, however, voted for that or anything much like it, and our taste for greeting card verse, limericks, bawdy rugby ballads and all the things we really like best was conveniently forgotten. Kipling's "If" was duly voted into first place and the pundits duly and enjoyably mocked the choice.

I did not mock the choice, though. That is because I was trying to think of another version of the message in "If" that I had come across somewhere, and I knew that if only I traced it, important locked areas would be opened up to me.

It took me several days, but finally I cracked it. There is another version of "If" and it goes like this:

*If you can keep your head*

*While all about you*

*Are losing theirs,*

*They probably know,*

*Something you don't know,*

*I came across this priceless*

*bit of advice, which seems to me a vast improvement on Kipling, in a book called *The New Official Rules*, a book that I always thought should be world-famous but which never seems to have spread beyond a coterie. It was compiled by Paul Dickson, an American lexicographer who compiles and entertains simultaneously.*

*Dickson had the simple but rewarding idea of putting together a book which contained all the non-scientific laws known to man, from the Peter Principle to Sod's Law.*

*Most of these laws get a single book devoted to them, much as Parkinson's Law was expanded to fill a whole book, and Dickson thought it would be nice to fill them all out, take off the unnecessary garnishes and serve them all in one volume. The result was *The New Official Rules*, and it has been through several editions and revisions since I have known it.*

*The first edition, as I remember, included a long discussion of Murphy's Law, which is the old one about "If a thing can go wrong, it will go wrong", and all the possible extensions of Murphy's Law.*

*Most of these seemed to be along the lines of predicting that the other traffic lanes on motorways will always go faster than yours, and it is no use*

*changing lane because now your new lane will go slowest; or that whichever queue you join in a bank will go slower than all the other queues. This is no longer true, of course, as the people who run banks have read this book and decided to amalgamate all the queues into one long and slow queue so everyone is now discriminated against.*

*(This may not be true in New York for years, but the last time I was there all the banks had multiple queues and all these queues were slower than any queue anywhere else in the world. It is a total fallacy about the pace of life being faster in New York. The pace of life is actually very slow in New York. It takes ages to get anywhere, find anyone, hail a taxi, get a parking space or be given a restaurant seat and be served. Only in a very slow city like New York would people even think of queuing*



MILES KINGTON

*up for a restaurant seat. People in New York seem to move fast because they are always trying to catch up, but the pace is actually very slow and that is why people champ and rage and get ulcers and twitches.)*

*All these rules were good solid stuff, but they were a little predictable, and I am glad to see that most of them have been eliminated in later editions or relegated to the introduction. What has happened is that readers have constantly submitted their own observations to Dickson and gradually the book has become a repository of wisdom covering those areas of life which nothing else covers, not the Bible and not Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Examples? Certainly. Try these:*

*"A memo is not sent to inform the recipient. It is sent to safeguard the sender."*

*"Anything designed to do more than one thing does so things very well."*

*"The spouse of the chronically ill patient dies first."*

*"If you don't want your children to hear what you are saying, preteach what you are talking to them."*

*"Getting rid of all your baby clothes and furniture is one of the main causes of pregnancy."*

*"Paint splashes last longer than the paint job itself."*

*More of this tomorrow.*

## Who wants this impossible job?

"Willygate" is about to claim Nato's Secretary-General and Andrew Marshall fears replacing him will distract from the real problem facing the awkward alliance

My castle is only as strong as its weakest point. Nato, which for 40 years was the West's strategic defence against the Eastern bloc, is uncomfortably aware that as it prepares to launch its biggest-ever operation in Bosnia, its weakest point is right at the top. In the alliance's inner sanctum sits a man who is probably about to be charged with corruption: Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General.

Yet the danger to Nato is not that it will be taken by storm or betrayed from within. It is that it will simply become irrelevant, like the picturesque ruined castles that dot the European landscape.

The row over Mr Claes symbolises the lack of political will that exists at the heart of Nato

firmly underpinned, that would not matter, but with the threat of conflict ever present to the east and south, it is disturbing.

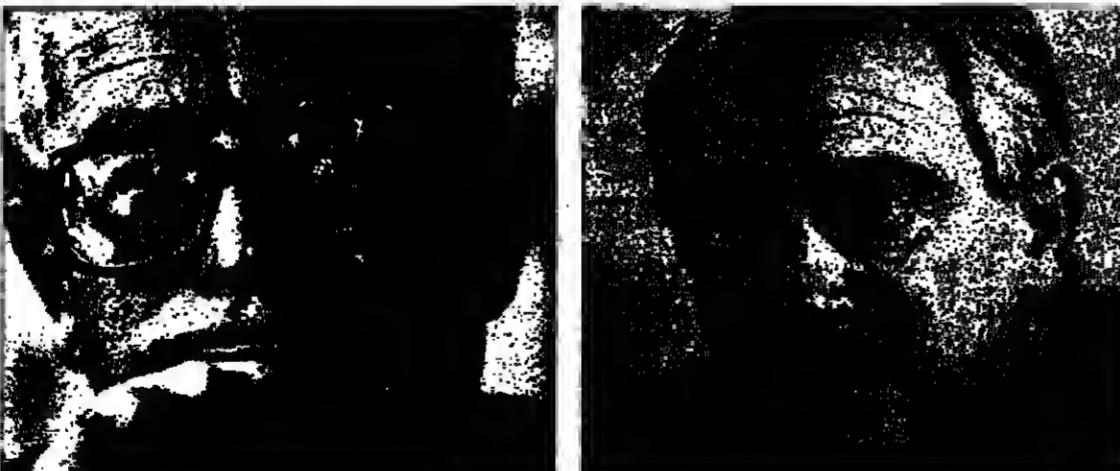
Mr Claes has become a symptom of political decay. For months his alleged involvement in a long-running Belgian scandal concerning the payment of bribes in connection with the purchase of military hardware has been the talk of Brussels. Augusta, the Italian helicopter company, was found to have made payments to Mr Claes's Flemish Socialist Party to return for aircraft orders when he was Belgian economics minister. It has been evident since Mr Claes first admitted that he has known that cash was offered in return for aircraft orders that something had to be done. Yet nobody has lifted a finger. And he will certainly not go on his own.

Now that the cumbersome Belgian legal system appears ready to put the cuffs on Mr Claes and take him downtown, the alliance's 16 nations will be forced to do something.

They have not acted before because they quite simply lacked the will to confront the many problems that are entailed in finding a new secretary-general.

Mr Claes himself only emerged from a grubby process of trading. He is there mainly because he's Belgian, and John Major would not allow another Belgian, Jean-Luc Dehaene, to hold Europe's other top job, President of the European Commission.

For similar reasons the allies have failed to get to grips with many of the strategic hot potatoes that have been dumped in Nato's lap. Nobody



Willy Claes (top), and the favourites to succeed him at Nato, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Douglas Hurd (left)

would pretend that the break-up of the Soviet Union could be handled easily, quickly or without argument in an alliance that is predicated on the existence of a hostile superpower on the doorstep. But the slow pace of change, the lack of imagination, the frequent reversals and side-stepping have become increasingly embarrassing.

A historical opportunity has been handed to those who make security policy in Europe and they have

reacted with indecision and short-sightedness. For this, of course, everybody blames everybody else.

In Europe, the Americans are held up as the primary culprit. Washington has failed to exercise political leadership: it is charged with having vacillated between a policy of "Russia first" and Nato expansion, and then overplayed its hand in the Balkans. There is an element of truth in this. Bill Clinton's foreign policy has had more than a touch of

Abstract Expressionism to it, with coherence established only in the past six months.

But the real problem lies in the European side of the alliance. The weak, divided and myopic political leadership that reigns in every European country is virtually incapable of coming to sound, long-term rational decisions. Fixated by economic weakness, riven by partisan political struggles and undermined by corruption scandals, European governments have

floundered in the post-Cold War years. Mr Claes is fast becoming as potent a symbol of this political ineptitude as it is possible to be.

Nato was founded, and has lasted for 40 years, on the basis of a political equation that is paraphrased thus: to keep the Americans in, the Russians out and the Germans in check. This is self-evidently no longer a sustainable set of arguments.

Europe needs a serious debate about its security. If the Americans are to be kept in, then on what terms? How important is the US nuclear umbrella and, indeed, how important are nuclear weapons?

If the Russians are to be kept out, then how is the gap to be bridged between the West and Moscow? What will happen to states such as Ukraine? If the Germans are to be kept in check

take off the unnecessary garnishes and serve them all in one volume. The result was *The New Official Rules*, and it has been through several editions and revisions since I have known it.

The first edition, as I remember, included a long discussion of Murphy's Law, which is the old one about "If a thing can go wrong, it will go wrong", and all the possible extensions of Murphy's Law.

Most of these seemed to be along the lines of predicting that the other traffic lanes on motorways will always go faster than yours, and it is no use

flouting the rules to pull out of the hat. European governments will inevitably confront the old and tired debate between Europeans and Atlanticists. It will all prove a diversion from the more profound existential questions that Nato ought to be facing up to. And the omens - Michael Portillo's Blackpool speech and a resurgent Gaulism in Paris - do not promise a quick or easy answer.

None of this is the fault of Mr Claes. Innocent or guilty of the charges of corruption, he is merely the wrong man in the wrong place at the wrong time. But every day that he remains in office is a day wasted. The quicker he goes and a successor is found, the quicker that Nato can move to deal with more important issues.

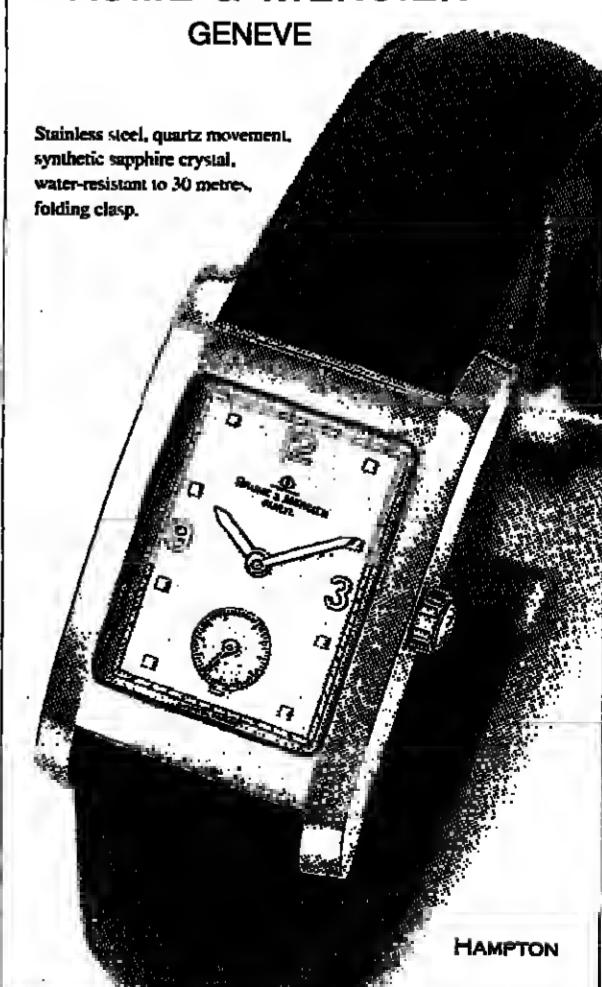
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## obituaries/gazette

### Ellis Peters

Ellis Peters wrote "Mysticals". More than any other writer of the past half-century, British or American, Peters – or rather Edith Pargeter, under her best-known pseudonym – popularised this, one of the most enthralling of all of detective fiction's many sub-genres: the mystery set in historical times.

While not the form's creator (that honour must go to the late Lillian de la Torre, the American crime-writer who cleverly transformed Dr Johnson and Boswell into an 18th-century Holmes and Watson, during the course of over 30 highly ingenious short stories), Pargeter was still hugely successful, and this success not only propelled many other writers into trying their hand at similar scenarios, but actually influenced the commercial direction taken by her last publisher. For a period, in the early 1990s, the crime list of Headline was almost entirely devoted to "Mysticals" set in one era or another.

At a time (the 1970s) when there was a strong vogue for Victorian sleuths, early or late (from Ben Healey's rumbustious Bow Street Runner Jeremy Sturrock to Peter Lovesey's Sergeant Crib or Donald Thomas's Sergeant Verity), Pargeter deliberately, almost defiantly, went her own way, setting a tale of murder and mystery a full 700 years before then, during the bloody civil war between Stephen and Maud: a fearsome era when, as the ancient chronicler so tellingly put it, "Christ and all his angels slept". This was her 1977 novel *A Morbid Taste For Bones* (Pargeter had a genius for a clever or arresting title; three others of note being *Black is the Colour of My True-Love's Heart, Mourning Rags and A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs*).

This, as she termed it, "Me-deval whodunit", written at an age (63) when most women of her generation were just starting to enjoy their retirement, attracted attention and gained enthusiastic reviews. Others followed, all featuring the tough, compassionate but immensely pragmatic (because ex-man-of-blood) Brother Cadfael (pronounced Cad-wel). All were set in or around Shrewsbury, creating in the end, via 20 or so books published over a period of nearly two decades, a minor tourist industry; that part of Shropshire being inevitably dubbed "Brother Cadfael".

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country, in much the same way that Tyneside is "Catherine Cookson" and the Yorkshire Dales "James Herriot" country. In making her monkish sleuth (whose specialist knowledge of herbs and simples proves the undoing of many a wolfish wight) an inhabitant of Shrewsbury's Benedictine Abbey of Saint Peter and Paul, Edith Pargeter did not stay far from her roots. She was born in 1913, in the shadow of the Wrekin, to the east of Shrewsbury, in the tiny hamlet of Horseshay, now virtually subsumed into the inelegant sprawl of Telford New Town in which, on a brand-new and pleasantly landscaped estate, Pargeter resided in Cadfael domed comfort during her latter days.

She was something of a polymath (musicologist, historian, an authority on the Czech language) yet largely self-educated; she never attended university. Instead she spent seven years (1933-40) as a chemist's assistant and wrote in her spare time – successfully, almost from the start.

Nineteen thirty-six was Edith Pargeter's year of miracles. During its course, she appeared in the downmarket 20-Story Magazine and at the same time was her first historical, *Honestius, Friend of Nero*. At this time the publishers Herbert Jenkins, an industrious supplier of popular, entertaining but essentially undemanding dross to the library trade, unintentionally acted as a kind of nursery for two writers. The adventure novelist Ralph Hammond Innes largely taught himself to write, producing cheap thrills for Jenkins, and Pargeter followed the same path, turning out, as "Joyon Carr", a number of mainly woman-in-peril suspense novels. Here, working for the chemist paid off, giving her (like Agatha Christie in a similar position during the Great War) a useful knowledge of poisons, which she deployed to good effect in *Murder in the Dispensary* (1938: syrup of chloral) as well as, under yet another pseudonym, "John Redfern", *The Victim Needs a Nurse* (1940: acconite).

She had a good war. Not only as a Petty Officer in the WRNS, awarded the British Empire Medal "for meritorious service" over a dozen works by some

of the country's most distinguished writers, including Jan Neruda's *Tales of the Little Quarter* (1957) and Joseph Bor's small-scale tragic masterpiece about the extraordinary Verdi concert at Auschwitz, *The Terezin Requiem* (1963). In 1968 she was awarded the Czechoslovak Society for International Relations Gold Medal "for services to Czech literature". This she probably appreciated rather more than the awards she received from the Mystery Writers of America (an "Edgar" in 1962) or the British Crime Writers Association (a "Silver Dagger" in 1980).

If Edith Pargeter had a message in her oeuvre – her mainstream novels as well as the Cadfael books and her earlier "Folke family" mysteries – it was that by and large mankind was not entirely irredeemable. Yet she was not pious. Indeed, she had an interesting streak of balefulness in her make-up: her 1965 short story "Tour of the Castle", for instance, features an extremely nasty revenge, and she could on occasion describe in the most full-blooded manner violence and horror and brutality. When she was 82 her right leg was amputated at the knee. This was entirely ungratified ("after the hell it had caused me" she wrote). She was a tough old bird.

Her Cadfael books will be recognised by genre historians as pioneering works. Perhaps she pulled her punches when it came to describing the real muck and blood and stench of the Middle Ages (her successors, however, such as the multi-pseudonymed Paul Doherty, at times went quite the other way), and perhaps too; latently, her emphasis on the goodness of her characters was overdone. Even so, she redefined the form by avoiding irony in her work (all right in others' books; not in hers) and concentrating on the alien quality of the past ("they do things differently" as L.P. Hartley famously remarked), while at the same time pointing up the essential continuity of the human condition. And she always wrote, whatever the genre, with absolute conviction.

Jack Adrian

*Edith Mary Pargeter (Ellis Peters), writer, born Horseshay, Shropshire, 23 September 1913; BEM 1944; OBE 1945; died Madeley, Shropshire 14 October 1995.*

Pioneering Edith Pargeter, alias Ellis Peters, creator of Brother Cadfael

Photograph: Rex Features

And it was fitting that his last book, which appeared in 1989, should have been *J.L. Austin*, a detailed study of Austin's philosophy, fully appreciative of Austin's significance and originality; it was at the same time not lacking in forceful criticism and incisive commentary.

Patrick Gardiner

As Principal of Hertford College from 1971 to 1988, Geoffrey Warnock presided over a crucial stage in the transformation of what was once one of smallest, poorest, and least regarded of Oxford's colleges into a mixed, middle-sized college with sound finances, new buildings, an expanding fellowship, a progressive admissions policy and good academic results, writes John Torrance.

Although some of the measures that benefited Hertford were in place before his arrival, their successful fruition owed much to his careful, clear-sighted and good-humoured government. Already known for his administrative efficiency while Senior Tutor at Magdalen, he now showed rare qualities of chairmanship and leadership which led to his choice as Vice-Chancellor of the university in 1981.

depend wholly on such considerations.

He returned to this theme briefly in his last speech, delivered at the recent opening of Warnock House, Hertford's new student residence on the Isle near Folly Bridge. The speech finished on a valedictory note, and when he died 12 days later it was hard not to believe that with characteristic firmness and courtesy, he had held off the advance of an unrelenting illness just long enough not to disappoint his family and the many friends, colleagues and well-wishers gathered for the occasion.

*Geoffrey James Warnock, philosopher; born Leeds 16 August 1923; Fellow by Examination, Magdalen College, Oxford 1949; Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1953-71 (Emeritus Fellow 1972-80; Honorary Fellow 1980-95); Fellow and Tutor, Brasenose College, Oxford 1950-53; Principal, Hertford College, Oxford 1971-88 (Honorary Fellow 1988-95); Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University 1981-85; Kt 1986; married 1949 Mary Wilson (created 1985 Baroness Warnock; two sons, three daughters); died Oxford, Wiltshire 8 October 1995.*

### Dr Gerald Swyer

Gerald Swyer was an eminent physician in the field of endocrinology and reproductive medicine. He established an Endocrine Clinic and also a Fertility Clinic at University College Hospital, in London, both of which he directed for over 30 years. In the beginning the difficulties of fertility management and research were often not appreciated; Swyer would jest that he ran a "Futility Clinic".

After qualifying in medicine at Oxford, Swyer obtained his doctoral thesis on the growth of the prostate gland before switching his research interests to female fertility. He then spent time at the University of California, as the Rockefeller Medical Student in 1941-43, where he worked with a pioneer of hormone replacement therapy, Dr Robert Greenblatt.

In 1947, Swyer was invited to join the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University College Hospital Medical School as an endocrinologist and in 1951 was appointed Consultant Endocrinologist. His work at the Endocrine and Fertility clinics, chiefly on the detection and treatment of defective ovulation, led to significant advances in fertility treatment, to the enduring gratitude of countless mothers and children. He was also a prolific scientific writer, the author of some 200 publications, mostly on reproductive medicine, including his 1954 book *Reproduction and Sex*, as well as appearing frequently in scientific debate on radio and television programmes.

In 1977, Swyer joined the Association of Women's Health Care as a director, which in the following year became the charity Women's Health Concern. This body had been established in 1972 to further information about female health problems and particularly hormone replacement therapy, and Swyer became its founder chairman in 1980, when it attained official charity status and he retired from University College Hospital.

For the following 15 years he worked tirelessly for Women's Health Concern, using his expertise to write explanatory literature about female health problems and answer letters personally to help the thousands of women who wrote to the charity for information. He regularly made contributions to the postgraduate symposium that he held by Women's Health Concern for doctors and for nurses. Even after his retirement from the post in 1993, he still continued to contribute his wisdom and experience to the charity.

Swyer was a very erudite yet gentle and modest character who never sought the personal fame that he undoubtedly deserved for his efforts. As well as his profound scientific acumen, he was also a follower of the arts and of sporting activities. He had a love of music and indeed actually made musical instruments, including clavichords and violins. He built and raced model yachts as well as being a keen dinghy sailing enthusiast. In addition, he was accomplished both as an artist and in tinting glass objects, as well as being an aficionado of the golf course.

John C. Stevenson

*Gerald Isaac Macdonald Swyer, endocrinologist; born Bognor, Sussex 17 November 1917; Endocrinologist to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Hospital Medical School 1951-71; Consultant Endocrinologist 1951-78; Scientific Adviser to World Health Organisation 1965-66; Chairman, Women's Health Concern 1980-93; married 1945 Irene Nash (one son, one daughter); died London 19 September 1995.*

### Sir Geoffrey Warnock

Geoffrey Warnock was widely though by no means exclusively known as an acute and subtle philosopher who engaged in a type of analysis that acquired considerable currency during the middle years of the present century.

The approach involved was markedly critical and anti-speculative in temper and was largely inspired – at any rate in the period immediately following the Second World War – by a conviction that the study and detailed investigation of language and its working represented an essential key both to the solution of philosophical problems and to a perspicuous understanding of the sources from which they sprang.

From the beginning of his philosophical career he was deeply impressed by the apparent merits of this approach, especially as exemplified in the influential and finely sensitive work of the Oxford philosopher J.L. Austin. But it would be wrong to think that in his own contributions to the subject he was content to confine himself to exploring its possibilities in any narrowly conceived fashion, his interest in fact broadening out in a number of different directions.



Warnock: shrewd judgement

Brasenose he returned to Magdalen, succeeding Austin as a tutorial fellow in philosophy and continuing to teach there until 1971. This period proved to be a most varied and fruitful one. In addition to visiting American universities and participating in discussions and broadcasts, he also became general editor of the comprehensive series of anthologies entitled "Oxford Readings in Philosophy". It was a time, too, when he published a range of books and articles spreading over a number of distinct spheres and concerns.

They showed him to be a philosopher of great distinction. What he produced was invariably marked by a striking combination of detailed analysis and lucidity of style and expression: he was, indeed, an author of considerable wit and elegance who wrote poetry as well as philosophy – a book of his poems appeared in 1955 and showed impressive accomplishment.

His intellectual and literary gifts were in evidence early on in his study, *Berkeley* (1953); this, though deliberately selective in scope, was a model of perspective and critical exposition. It was followed in 1958 by the mainly exegetical *English Phi-*

*losophy since 1900* and then by two books that were indicative of a growing dissatisfaction with current treatments of ethics.

The first, *Contemporary Moral Philosophy* (1967), consisted of an extremely penetrating critique of what he conceived to be major deficiencies in recent enquiries while in its successor, *The Object of Morality* (1971), he set out along which a more positive approach might proceed.

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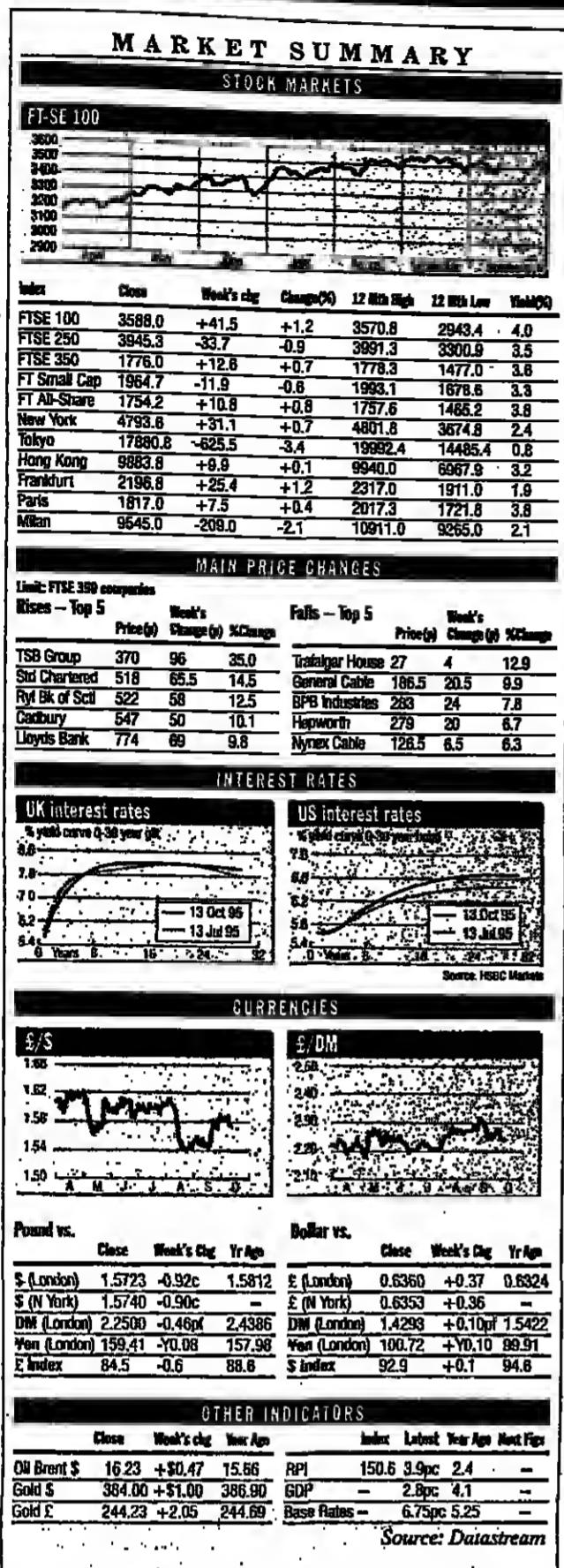
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CITY &amp; BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER



## IN BRIEF

## Kevin Maxwell to take stand

Kevin Maxwell will face questioning today as the defence presents its case in the marathon Maxwell trial, now nearing its 80th day. The prosecution, brought by the Serious Fraud Office, has already called more than 40 witnesses at the Old Bailey annex in Chichester Rents, in London's Chancery Lane. Sources close to the court expect the trial to be completed by the end of November - more than four years after the media tycoon Robert Maxwell died in mysterious circumstances off the Canary Islands.

## Asda to cut over-the-counter drug prices

Asda, the supermarket group, is to extend its price-cutting policy to over-the-counter drugs, currently protected by a price maintenance agreement. The move follows Asda's successful challenge in the Net Book Agreement. Asda will launch a cut-price offer on vitamin pills today, with reductions on other non-prescription drugs set to follow. The retail consultant Verdict Research predicts a price war in the toiletries market led by the supermarket groups.

## Tomkins to bid for Gates Rubber

Tomkins, the Smith & Wesson and Rank Hovis McDougall conglomerate, is bidding more than \$1m for Gates Rubber, a US automotive parts manufacturer. Greg Hutchings' group has been under pressure to make use of its \$300m cash pile. Tomkins is bidding against the US conglomerate Tenneco for Gates, which has been put up for sale by the controlling family.

## Risky business

Many large corporations are still using complex derivative instruments to manage risk without using adequate controls. A survey by Price Waterhouse found that of nearly 400 companies questioned, three-quarters were using derivatives in their treasury function, but less than half were applying effective controls.

**Motor Industry:** Sales are struggling, yet output this year is heading for its best for 20 years

## Gloomy carmakers hark back to golden era

## RUSSELL HOTTEN

Nostalgia will be a big theme of this week's London motor show, with classics like a 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III and Rover's re-launched MGF among the usual array of Toyotas and Fords. Car executives must sometimes pine for when the UK industry was the envy of the world.

International competition and domestic economic problems have caused havoc for the nation's motor manufacturers and this week's gathering of the industry's great and good comes at a time of gloom. There are conflicting signals in the marketplace. Manufacturers have put up prices, but retailers are offering a wealth of cut-price deals. Car production is rising, but the latest trade figures say exports are tailing off.

It is certainly not UK buyers who are soaking up excess car output, as sales are struggling to

maintain even last year's disappointing levels. But carmakers say they are not stockpiling. It has, as one retailer said recently, "all got not of kilter".

Car prices have consistently risen above the rate of inflation over the last couple of years. In August the annual rate of car inflation was 4.4 per cent, the highest since the end of 1993, against an inflation rate of 3.6 per cent. August is a month when some manufacturers, including market leader Ford, traditionally lift prices in order to pull sales forward. But it was also the month when the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders pleaded with the Chancellor for a "scrappage" subsidy to boost new car sales.

Of course, few customers pay the real price for the volume models that manufacturers are trying to shift. Instead there are deals such as cheap credit or free insurance, which mean the firms' finance arms are cross-subsidising the ticket price.

These days, more manufacturers are avoiding the high-street dealers and selling directly to the fleets at substantial discounts, and then trying to recoup the lost revenue from the private buyer.

Retailers are running their own incentive schemes. With dealerships also losing lucrative service and repair work because the private buyer cannot afford the costs, the only recourse is distress selling, and a drastic cut in margins.

Neil Marshall, director of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, says he wants many of the schemes translated into a "real" cut in price: "People who don't take the incentive - such as the credit deals - do not get the benefit and are subsidising the ones who do."

Given such circumstances, Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC Greenwell, can think of few sectors of the economy less deserving of special treatment from the Government

than the motor industry. Carmakers have, he argues, been given tax breaks before and simply squandered them.

Despite worries about sales, output this year is still headed towards its best for 20 years. Car production rose by a seasonal

ly adjusted 3.5 per cent in the three months to August, against the previous three months. July's trade figures pointed to a slowdown in car exports but British manufacturers say stocks are not unusually large, and only Ford's Halewood plant is running

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Most European and US carmakers admit to carrying high stocks. And more and more models are being churned out all the time. The motor show will unveil 50 models never before shown in the UK. Indeed, European carmakers are launching 20 new cars this year, a rate that Robert Lutz, the president of Chrysler, said leaves the market "cluttered".

If the industry thought existing conditions were tough, Mr Lutz believes there is worse to come. "This business is going to be only for the brave from here on out," he says.

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# business<sup>23</sup>

INDEPENDENT • Monday 16 October 1995

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2518 fax 0171-293 2098

## Utility inquiry launched by EPF

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

A commission of inquiry into the regulation of privatised utilities will be launched today by the European Policy Forum. The commission will include, among others, Sir Bryan Carsberg, until recently director general of the Office of Fair Trading, and will be headed by John Flemming, warden of Wadham College, Oxford.

The move comes amidst mounting public criticism of the utility industries. It also coincides with a fresh row over the millions of pounds that could be made by electricity industry executives from the flotation of the National Grid Company, which is at present owned by the 12 regional electricity firms in England and Wales. The Labour Party has called for the flotation to be delayed pending an independent investigation into the directors' "windfall".

The main work of the commission will be to examine the way in which the utilities are regulated and how the system can best be changed. Frank Vibert, director of the European Policy Forum, said: "It is now clear that many of the problems affecting privatised utilities are problems of regulation. The moment is opportune for a thorough re-examination of the way in which the regulatory system can be improved in the light of experience."

There is a growing view that shareholders in the privatised utilities have benefited at the expense of customers and that tougher regulation is needed. Critics of the regulators also say that too much power is vested in individuals and that they are not sufficiently accountable.

Earlier this year, the Public Accounts Committee launched its own wide-ranging review of regulation in the gas, electricity, water and telecommunications industries. The PAC said the investigation will examine the role of regulators and any recent price reviews they have carried out.

Robert Sheldon, chairman of the PAC, said: "The job of regulators involves problems which are common to all... We seem to slip very easily into this system of regulation in the UK without sufficient forethought and we are now learning from our mistakes. The Government does not like to intervene, so there is really nobody to exercise any oversight."



Lightning conductor: Cedric Brown's decision to relinquish his incentive scheme rights is unlikely to end the speculation on his future

Photograph: Philip Meech

British Gas will have paid cumulatively for almost £700m of gas that it must put under the "take or pay" contract conditions but cannot yet sell. According to some analysts the figure could hit £1.3bn by 1998.

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# business

## TODAY

**Companies**  
**Highland Distilleries**, the group best known for the Famous Grouse brand of Scotch, is expected to report a modest improvement in profits to £44m for the year to August. The rise should compare favourably with recent figures from rivals such as Guinness, which makes the Teachers brand, and Burns Stewart. However Highland still faces tough conditions in its key UK market. NatWest Securities is forecasting profits to rise by around 10 per cent.

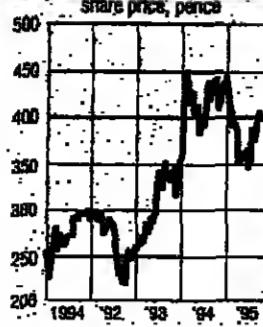
New management unveils its first set of results at Waste Management International, with third-quarter figures expected to be flat at £43m. The new team was appointed during July so it is too soon to expect a re-structuring. However analysts are not ruling out a shake-up with the full year figures in February. WMI has a 20 per cent stake in Wessex Water, where trading has been

strong, and the UK waste business is also performing well. The French and Italian markets, however, remain in the doldrums.

**Finals:** Gartmore Smaller Companies  
**Interims:** Berardin Holdings, Farnell Electronics, Hewitt Group, Olives Property, Padang Seutang, Singapore Para Rubber.

**Annual meetings:** Lutx Printing, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, U.S. Smaller Co EGMS: None scheduled

**Highland Distilleries**



Source: *Business Week*

## TOMORROW

### Companies

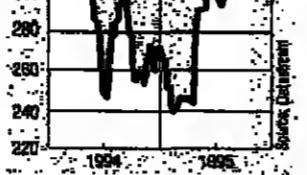
**Finals:** Paterson Zochonis, River & Merc Extra, Hong Kong Investments  
**Interims:** El Oro Mining, Exploration Co, Henry Boot & Sons, Newport Holdings, Tie Rack

**Annual meetings:** Egalet Investment Trust, Finelis Group, Finsbury Underwriting, Select Industries, Surrey Free Inns, Welsh Industrial Trust

**EGMs:** Eidos, Select Industries Econometrics  
**Followings:** the signals at the Conservative Party conference that a tax-cutting Budget lies ahead, September's public sector borrowing requirement will be scrutinised even more minutely than usual. The market is expecting a deficit of £4bn. The trajectory of tax

revenues that have fallen well short of Treasury projections will be of particular interest. In the US, industrial production is expected to remain unchanged on the month. The Japanese trade balance in September is forecast to be \$10.5bn. An unexpected rise would hurt the yen.

**DFS Furniture**



Source: *Business Week*

## WEDNESDAY

### Companies

**DFS Furniture** is expected to buck the gloomy retail trend with an upbeat set of figures for the year to July. Profits are forecast to rise from £22.75m to £26m. Though analysts doubt the company will have maintained the 10 per cent like-for-like sales increase achieved in the first half, they are still looking for good progress. A statement on returning some money to shareholders - mentioned as a possibility at the half year stage - is also expected. The City will be looking for an update on progress at the core WH Smith chain at the company's annual meeting. The Project Enliven initiative was launched earlier this year to help restore the fortunes of the ailing high street chain.

**Finals:** Bridport-Gundry  
**Interims:** Berry Birch & Noble, Card Clear, English National Inv Co, Havelock Europa, Kymene Corp, Renown Inc, Town Centre Securities, BDA Holdings  
**Annual meetings:** GoldFields of South Africa, W H Smith, Tottenham Hotspur

**EGMs:** Sage Group

**Economics:** A bumper day for the UK economy. Following the retail price shock last week, retail sales will be closely watched to see if consumers are resisting attempts by retailers to push up margins. The market view is that there will be sales growth of 0.6 per cent. The other main focus of attention will be the unemployment and earnings figures. Although unemployment fell by 18,000 in August the average fall in re-

cent months has been under a fifth of the rate at the end of 1995. The market is expecting a fall of 5,000. Underlying earnings, which fell in July, are expected to remain unchanged in August at 3.25 per cent. The US trade balance will be a matter of concern. Hopes of a decline were dashed last month with another record deficit. The market is expecting a deficit of \$11bn in August.

## FRIDAY

### Companies

**Finals:** Ramus Holdings  
**Interims:** Alida Holdings, Audax Properties, Richards, Securities Trust of Scotland, Sungard Data Systems (Q), Value & Income Trust, Warnford Investments

**Annual meetings:** Arndour Trust, Peter Black Holdings

**Economics:** The balance of no-EU trade is expected to fall slightly to a deficit of £900m following the particularly high deficit of £990m in August. Watch to see if there is any recovery in exports to the US, which were depressed by the rapid slowdown in the second quarter.

## THURSDAY

### Companies

**Finals:** M J Gleeson, Wescol Group

**Interims:** Airflow Streamline, Aminex, Ferguson Intl Holdings, Ramco Energy

**Annual meetings:** Elbief, Gold Greenlees Trout, Haynes Publishing, Headway

**EGMs:** None scheduled

**Economics:** Provisional M4 figures will be closely watched by the markets following the expression of concern by the Chancellor and the Governor about recent strong growth. The market is

## SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The priceearnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: x Ex rights; x Ex dividend; u Unlisted Securities Market; s Suspended; PP First Paid; pni Nil Paid Shares. Source: Financial Times

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INTEREST RATES

UK Base 6.75% Discount 3.50% US Prime 8.75% Discount 0.50%

France 5.50% Discount 5.25% Belgian 5.50% Discount 3.50%

Intervention 5.00% Canada Prime 8.00% Discount 4.05%

Italy 9.00% Discount 6.63% Central 10-Day Repo 8.25% Switzerland 6.63% Discount 2.00%

Netherlands 3.80% Denmark Discount 5.00% Swedish Repo (Avg) 8.91% Lombard 3.87%

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oil, integrated

other financial

other services

retailers, food

textiles & apparel

telecommunications

transport

chemicals

china cause



GAVYN DAVIES

"One minute the Government appears in the guise of Thatcherite cutter of spending, the next as trusty defender of public services. All politicians try to play both sides of this card, but it is mostly governments that get blamed when expectations are dashed."

## Clarke gambles on another year of restraint

Emerging from Blackpool with tax cuts on their minds the Conservatives are heading directly into severe political trouble over public spending. They have pledged to cut the real level of spending again next year, but have no intention of actually reducing the scope of the public sector. As a result, they will raise public expectations and then get blamed for the shoddy provision of services that will inevitably follow.

Most commentators have not noticed this risk, either because they have assumed (wrongly) that there is plenty of fat in current spending plans, or because they believe the Chancellor is setting tough spending targets with the deliberate intention of missing them in the election run-up.

The overshoot in the Budget deficit relative to targets this year is seen by cynics as the start of a premeditated strategy of lining the voters' pockets. This would encompass tax cuts, followed by uncontrolled increases in public spending, followed by more one-off gains for voters as regulators force cuts in fuel prices, as building societies merge, and as the Norwich Union goes public.

What could be more familiar than a gigantic pre-election bribe, with the mess being cleared up after polling day?

It is clear that some elements of this are very much in the game plan. The Chancellor obviously intends to cut taxes in each of the next two Budgets, and probably to promise a phased programme of further reductions after the election as well. That was presumably the inference of his remark at conference that not everything in the tax area could be accomplished "in one go".

Furthermore, Mr Clarke is hoping to trump Labour's windfall tax on the utilities by "persuading" regulators to ram through additional price cuts for the consumer. Not only would this reduce inflation and boost

real incomes, it would also denude the utilities of the surplus cash that Labour is planning to raid in government. Far too tempting an opportunity for Mr Clarke to spurn, even though he may have to lean rather hard on the regulators to cajole them into co-operation.

But what about public spending? The Prime Minister said last week that the search for more spending cuts would be "ruthless". Yet by the end of the week he was adding 5,000 policemen to the beat, reiterating his commitment to increase real health spending each year, and telling the Chief Secretary not to "mess with" Gillian Shepherd's education programme.

One minute the Government appears in the guise of Thatcherite spending-cutters, the next it is the trusty defender of the public services. Of course, all politicians try to play both sides of this particular card, but it is the fate of governments to get most of the blame when the electorate's expectations are dashed.

The Government's present approach to the control of public spending is tactical rather than strategic - cheese-paring without making any attempt to reduce the public's demand for cheese.

As Norman Lamont pointed out in Blackpool, there is a refusal to contemplate eliminating the public sector from large parts of pension provision, health and education, thus making room for significant cuts in taxation.

Instead, the Government's approach is reminiscent of a company that has decided to curtail costs without reducing the scale of its businesses. Typically, the first wave of cuts works fine, since obvious waste can be eliminated and the bottom 10 per cent of the workforce can be fired without any immediate loss of business.

But a second wave, if still needed, is rather

more difficult. Important capital investment gets postponed, and efficient staff are asked to accept sub-par pay increases, which leave them worse off than they would be in the open market. Many of them leave. All this impairs the long-term performance of the company, and revenue starts to fall. In the third wave, the firm either retrenches to its most profitable core of businesses, or it fails.

The Government is acting like just such a company about to embark on its second wave of cuts. The first wave started in the crucial year of 1993, when the Government realised that public sector borrowing was running out of control, partly because of a 5.7 per cent rise in the real level of spending of the previous year.

But the introduction of an improved method of controlling spending (based on the "control total", which excluded spending on cyclical social security and debt interest) succeeded in holding the real growth in spending down to 1.2 per cent and 1.0 per

cent in the following two years. This year, the result is so far unknown, but the real growth in spending should come in at around zero.

The Chancellor has claimed that 1993 should be seen as a watershed for public spending control, and three successive years of real growth at 1 per cent or less certainly looks impressive. But in fact there was a similar period of low growth in real public spending from 1985-88, when the economy was at roughly the same stage of the business cycle, so it is not yet clear whether we are seeing anything genuinely new.

He has admittedly been some genuine policy changes that have yielded savings in the social security budget - involving, for example, incapacity benefit and the jobseeker's allowance.

Furthermore, almost every important local authority in the country now has its spending forcibly capped by the Government, or is "voluntarily" complying with provisional caps set by Whitehall each year. (How

many voters realise, incidentally, that Whitehall has now virtually removed the power to tax and spend from the local authorities, leaving them as rump bodies empowered only to administer a fixed budget?) These changes may continue to depress spending for some years.

But in the main, the last three years have seen a series of one-off expedients that are most unlikely to work indefinitely. Like the company in trouble, government departments have postponed or cancelled capital projects, and have been required to absorb the cost of any increase in public sector pay through efficiency savings elsewhere.

This has been temporarily successful, but three major problems now loom. The public sector pay bill cannot be permanently frozen with inflation beginning to rise. Plans for health spending, which allow for real growth of almost zero, look unrealistically tight.

And education spending will surely accelerate above plans, given the growth of 1.1 per cent in pupil numbers next year and the need for an upward adjustment in teachers' pay.

The Chancellor is not allowing for any of these pressures in his plans for next year. Far from it, another year of approximately zero growth in real public spending is being pencilised into the Budget arithmetic. Perhaps the Chancellor, as accused, really does intend to exceed these tough targets when the time comes. But this is a risky strategy.

Under the new control system, it will be very obvious if targets are being missed, and the eyes of the financial markets will be firmly trained on the Treasury's behaviour. More likely, Mr Clarke has made the political judgment that he can get away with another year of tough restraint on spending. A hundred or so vulnerable Conservative MPs had better hope that he is right.

Fresh from organising the 'orderly revival' of the battered dollar, the US deputy treasury secretary is ready for the bigger questions

## Power, intellect and the management of markets

If there is a single person who can take the lion's share of the credit for the revival of the dollar from its trough last spring it is Lawrence Summers, America's deputy treasury secretary.

In the spring, after the dollar had lost around a fifth of its value against the yen, Mr Summers convinced the Clinton administration that a stronger currency would be in the national interest. He was the architect of the statement by the seven leading industrial countries in April that they sought an "orderly reversal" of the dollar's fall. It worked.

"People have counted the dollar out many times before and been proven wrong," says Mr Summers. The 40-year-old deputy secretary has become one of the most influential figures in world economic policymaking. He brings to this practical role one of the finest economic minds of his generation.

The combination of power and intellect is almost guaranteed to make him unpopular in some circles. Mr Summers' rapid upward flight has run into several patches of turbulence, which critics say have been exacerbated by his arrogance.

At least he has good grounds for such confidence. Mr Summers became, at 28, the youngest tenured professor in Harvard University's history. The child of two economists, two of his uncles - Paul Samuelson and Kenneth Arrow - won Nobel prizes in economics.

For Britons, he comes from a key figure because of his indirect influence on Labour Party policy. Ed Balls, adviser to the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, was a student of Mr Summers and has imported

wholesale his approach to economics. It is not too fanciful to see Mr Summers as the unlikely apostle of New Labour's conversion to markets.

Drinking his signature can of Diet Coke in a grand office in the imposing US Treasury Department, he accepts that the power of financial markets causes some uneasiness. "In democracies, too often fear does the work of reason," he says. But he adds: "Capital markets punish but they also reward. It is ludicrous to suggest that by slowing flows of capital you would let governments exert their influence."

Like most other policymak-

ers at the recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, Mr Summers argues that there is more popular support for cuts in government budget deficits than anybody expected. The demands of the financial markets for sound fiscal policy do not run counter to the will of the people.

Besides, flush with the success of the G7 accord to turn around the dollar, he believes markets can be monitored and managed. "Those who were sceptical about whether G7 pronouncements meant anything have learned to respect them, a bit more," he says.

The benefits of greater flows of capital far outweigh the side-effects, but clearly the system needs to be managed."

The more liquid the capital markets, the less pronounced the side-effects will be. These lessons he applies to Mexico,

ing interest rates, it has begun a programme of deregulation and privatisation.

"This demonstrates the importance of following a market-oriented policy," Mr Summers says. The demands of the financial markets for sound fiscal policy do not run counter to the will of the people.

The broad outlines of his economic policy views are orthodox: lower deficits, market liberalisation if necessary, and a credible anti-inflationary interest rate policy. This is the international policy consensus he has helped to reinforce in the year of turbulence in the financial markets.

He has two concerns about the outlook for growth and inflation. One is that complacency will put steady growth and low inflation at risk. The other is that the isolationist spirit will increase, both in the US and elsewhere. Mr Summers wrote a lengthy defence of America's

need to stay involved in international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank in the *Wall Street Journal* last week. Addressing those who would cut US funding for such institutions, he wrote: "Economic disengagement from the world could lead, as it did earlier in the century, to a spiral of protectionism and isolation that would be financially catastrophic for our own economy." However, the real economic policy challenge, he says, is not what level to set government spending or interest rates but what to do about the half of the population that is losing ground. How do we equip this half to participate in rising productivity and wages? The focus has to be on investment in human capital," he says. This is pure New Labour.

Mr Summers suggests, too, that the causes of business cycle fluctuations are so little understood that this would be a tempting area for research if he were back in the academic world. "The Keynesian paradigm has been shattered. Nothing satisfactory has been put in its place," he says. Economists need to try to understand speculative financial markets and how policy needs to respond.

"Adam Smith's world was one of widgets and corn, not McDonalds and Microsoft. We don't have ways of thinking about the profound changes in economic life caused by information technology and the development of the service industries."

This research agenda highlights an interest in the big questions in economics - the drive that took him into public policy in the first place. In 1993 he was awarded the American Economics Association's bi-

annual John Bates Clark medal for the outstanding economist under 40. An appreciation of his work published to mark the award identified the essence of his approach as the identification of a key question in economics, and empirical testing of competing theoretical explanations. The citation continued: "His work has inspired a new generation of economists, many of them his students and collaborators, who are now reconstructing the foundations of the discipline."

Mr Summers left academic life temporarily in 1981-82, to work on the staff of the President's (then Ronald Reagan's) Council of Economic Advisers in Washington. In 1989 he became chief economist at the World Bank, leaving after a storm created by the leak of a memo in which he argued that it could make economic sense for industrial countries to ship their waste to developing countries.

He refuses to be drawn now on whether he will return to academic life. "We'll have to see what happens down the road. But I would be a very happy professor of economics." Meanwhile, he believes it useful to bring an academic background to the inner circles of policy-making. "Economic reality is an important constraint on policy-making," he concludes.

Diane Coyle

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## China cautious as it considers life after Deng

### VIEW FROM HONG KONG

It is commonplace for exotic species to embark on a collective frenzy, normally during mating season. Yet there is an equally exotic species for whom the ritual is less frequent: die-hard China investors sent into a frenzy of activity by the Chinese government's latest Five-Year plan.

The ninth five-year plan, released earlier this month, provoked the usual deluge of comment and analysis from China watchers based in Hong Kong, the main source of foreign capital for the stirring giant north of the border.

What is strange about all this is that China's Five-Year Plans give so little guide to what will happen in the coming half decade. Instead they provide an insight into those aspects of economic development over the past five years that have been endorsed as official policy by the decision-makers in Peking.

At the best of times the Chinese leadership has shown itself to have little idea how to initiate economic reform. Mao Tse-tung's Great Leap Forward, announced in the Second Five-Year plan, led to widespread famine, the crippling of Chinese

industry and years of damage to the nation's agricultural sector.

The genius of Deng Xiaoping, the ailing patriarch, was to provide space for market forces to lead the way in initiating reform, allowing the state to adopt those that succeeded and denounce those that did not. The most profound elements of economic and fiscal reform have not been initiated in the Five-Year Plans. For example, China's open-door policy was only officially endorsed in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, spanning 1986 to 1990. By that time all the major innovations - special economic zones, relaxed controls on foreign investment and export-led economic growth - were already well underway.

Seen in this light, the current Five-Year Plan reflects a more cautious mood among the leadership. Some Hong Kong-based foreign investors were disappointed. They were looking for indications of concrete reforms, such as an opening up of the financial sector and allow-



Opening a window. 'National treatment' should allow foreign firms to compete freely in China's domestic market

flation may be as high as 20 per cent.

There are signs that inflation is being tackled, although the main weapon chosen is the credit squeeze, which is being more or less faithfully administered by the state-controlled banks. This is bad news for the corporations listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, which have blamed the squeeze for recent poor interim results.

While credit is getting tighter, the policymakers in Peking have given the official nod of approval for the retrogressive step of not allowing state companies to go bankrupt.

The idea had been to make them more competitive by insisting that they rely on their own resources. This produced walls of anguish from around the country, where competition was creating real hardship. So this plan endorses a policy that has been evident over the past year, effectively allowing the state to bail out ailing state corporations.

By any standard, the Ninth Five-Year Plan is unimaginative, mirroring the caution that grips the Chinese leadership as it contemplates life without Deng. But as history has shown, this does not mean significant changes will not take place in the next five years - some of which the Tenth Five-Year Plan may well endorse.

Stephen Vines



## sport

Crutchley continues to find the net

## Hockey

BILL COLWILL

Bobby Crutchley, the discarded England striker, scored his second successive hat-trick with his new club, Cannock, in their 7-1 victory at home to neighbours Stourport as the Staffordshire club confirmed last week's form when they beat Havant 5-0 in their opening fixture. Paul Edwards, Ian Hughes-Rowlands, Chris Mayer and John Mills completed the scoring.

Old Loughtonians netted four for the second week with a 4-1 win at Havant. Ian Morrison scored twice from penalty corners with Jason Lee and Bill Williams also getting in on the act.

Southgate notched up seven goals last week and were off to a cracking start with a goal from Guy Gibbons after 36 seconds against Reading but eventually lost 4-2 to the Berkshire side, who are certain to provide a strong challenge for the title.

In a highly entertaining first-half, two well-taken goals by Scott Ashdown gave Reading the lead before Bill Waugh hauled Southgate back on terms. Tiredness took its toll in the second half, though, and goalkeepers Simon Mason and Danny Williams, for Southgate, made a series of fine saves. First goals for their new club by Mark Pearn and Grant Edwards secured the points.

Don Williams collected his first goal since his return to Guildford two minutes into the second half at Hounslow where, with Rob Thompson equalising two minutes later, the teams had to settle for a draw. Two goals down at the interval, Barford Tigers clawed their way back to beat East Grinstead 4-3 with Dhaminder Singh and Tarsem Singh Johal scoring twice.

Beeston, with a 5-2 win against Harlestone Magpies, lead the way in the Second Division with Craig Keegan scoring twice. Dominic Camilleri, capped for England 10 years ago while with Old Loughtonians, yesterday scored Blachford's first National League goal in their 1-0 win against Richmond.

## Culliford maintains standards

Sutton Canals Life and Slough made light of the absence of three Great Britain players each to beat Hightown and Doncaster, respectively, in the Premier Division of the Women's National League, writes Bill Colwill.

Clifton, with a 1-0 win at home to Ipswich, retained their two-point lead over Sutton at the top.

Lucy Culliford maintained her run of a goal-a-match for Clifton but it was Lorraine Marden, the former Hightown midfielder, who stole the show.

The defending champions, Slough, owed their 1-0 win against Doncaster in a lively performance and a winning goal for Kate White.

England's manager, Jane Swinnerton-Jones, scored both Sinton's goals in their 2-1 win against Hightown where England's coach, Maggie Souty, was in opposition. Tina Chilien, England's centre forward, replied for Hightown.

The First Division an Ali Burrows penalty corner shot gave Trojans a 1-0 victory away to Sunderland Bedlam to maintain their 100 per cent record while two goals from Kirstin Cardus for Canterbury - away to Blueharts at Hitchin - keeps them in hot pursuit with an inferior goal difference.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

PA CARRING PREMIERSHIP Wimborne v West Ham (5.0)

AUTO WINDSCREEN SHIELD Southern Section First Round Peterborough v Wimborne (7.45)

CROWN Third Qualifying round and replay Forest Green Rovers v Cheltenham

UNISON League Premier Division Bishop Auckland v Bishop Auckland (4.0)

UNISON League Division Two Bishop Auckland v Bishop Auckland (7.45)

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division Blackpool Rovers v Wimborne Wimborne (7.0), Sedgley and Daxton v Leek (7.0)

ANON INDUSTRIAL CONFEDERATION First Division Bishop Auckland v Peterborough (7.0) (or Kingstone); Bishop Auckland v Peterborough (7.0); Swindon v Bishop Auckland (2.0) (or Wimborne)

Rugby League

HALIFAX EMERGING NATIONS World Cup Group A

Russia v Scotland (7.45)

GROUP B Ireland v Moldova (7.30)

(or Scotland, Rochdale)

Speedway

7.30 unless stated

PREMIER LEAGUE Exeter v Peterborough; Walsall v Middlesbrough

Other sports

SNOKER Snooker Grand Prix (Sunderland)

RACING: Spectrum launches a Group One double for Peter Chapple-Hyam but a 1996 prospect fails in Paris

# Honour again for Manton

RICHARD EDMONDSON

It was a mixed weekend for Peter Chapple-Hyam and one of the many affluent owners that support his Manton stable, Lord Weinstein.

Both trainer and owner had a Saturday to remember when Spectrum, almost ignored despite his persuasive form, won the Champion Stakes at Newmarket.

Like many owners, Lord Weinstein has showed a lot of money down the grid in his pursuit of success in the sport but few have questioned his financial acumen until recently.

Now the leading figure at GEC is being questioned about his fiscal nous as he reaches a relatively senior shelf of business life. He might reply that his racing decisions seem to be reaching a new level of wisdom.

Chapple-Hyam was having a quiet season by his standards until Spectrum added to his Irish 2,000 Guineas success to make his chesterfield seem a lot more comfortable.

Unlike Lammtara's abbreviated career, Spectrum will return next season in an effort to prove he is at least as capable at a mile and a half as he has been at 10 furlongs, but he will not be racing on Epsom's undulating terrain where he pulled a muscle while finishing 13th in the Derby.

"He seems to have lost 14 kilos in the race which is more than I expected, but he has got a long time to get over it," Chapple-Hyam said. "He will be put

away now and we will decide what his targets are when next year comes. He will step up to a mile and a half but he will definitely not run in the Coronation Cup.

"Some haven't believed what I said about Spectrum and people might start making excuses for the others, but I was confident yesterday," he added. "Bahri has never beaten him and Tamure got 7lb from him when he beat him.

"It was a marvellous day. I always believed he was special and he proved it. This is a serious racehorse."

The glasses must have been chinking together after Chapple-Hyam collected a second, and even more valuable, Group One prize at San Siro, Milan, yesterday when Court Of Honour won the Gran Premio del Jockey Club Italiano in the colours of Chapple-Hyam's landlord at Manton, Robert Sangster.

At Longchamp, though, there was disappointment for

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
NAP: Academy Of Dance (Folkestone 1.15)  
NB: Mushahid (Pontefract 3.00)

Chapple-Hyam and Sangster when Astor Place, regarded as one of their brightest prospects for next year's Classics, could finish only fifth behind the Andal Fabre-trained Loup Solitaire in what is arguably France's top event for two-year-olds, the Grand Criterium.

GOING: Good.

STALLERS 1ndf and 7f - outside rails remainder - stairs side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low 46 to 47, high for 77 to 125.

■ LIGHT-WEIGHTS: 1st 100m, 2nd 100m, 3rd 100m, 4th 100m.

■ COULD WIN: On 100m of track of 1,400. Weighted starting station (service from London, Cheveux Cross) applies to course. ADMISSION: Club 512 (1ndf-free); Tattersalls 2.10; CAR PARK: Free; Course Enclosure 54, plus 54 for each occupied.

■ WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Trichlestone (3.15) has been sent 300 miles by M Wane from Moulton, N Yorks; Gamble (2.15) sent 300 miles by J Murphy from Oulton, N Yorks; Duxbury (1.15) sent 300 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorks.

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■ WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Cribbsdale (3.15) has been sent 300 miles by M Wane from Moulton, N Yorks; Gamble (2.15) sent 300 miles by J Murphy from Oulton, N Yorks; Duxbury (1.15) sent 300 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorks.

■ GOING: Good.

STALLERS 1ndf and 7f - outside rails remainder - stairs side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low 46 to 47, high for 77 to 125.

■ LIGHT-WEIGHTS: 1st 100m, 2nd 100m, 3rd 100m, 4th 100m.

■ COULD WIN: On 100m of track of 1,400. Weighted starting station (service from London, Cheveux Cross) applies to course. ADMISSION: Club 512 (1ndf-free); Tattersalls 2.10; CAR PARK: Free; Course Enclosure 54, plus 54 for each occupied.

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■ WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

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STALLERS 1ndf and 7f - outside rails remainder - stairs side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low 46 to 47, high for 77 to 125.

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■ GOING: Good.

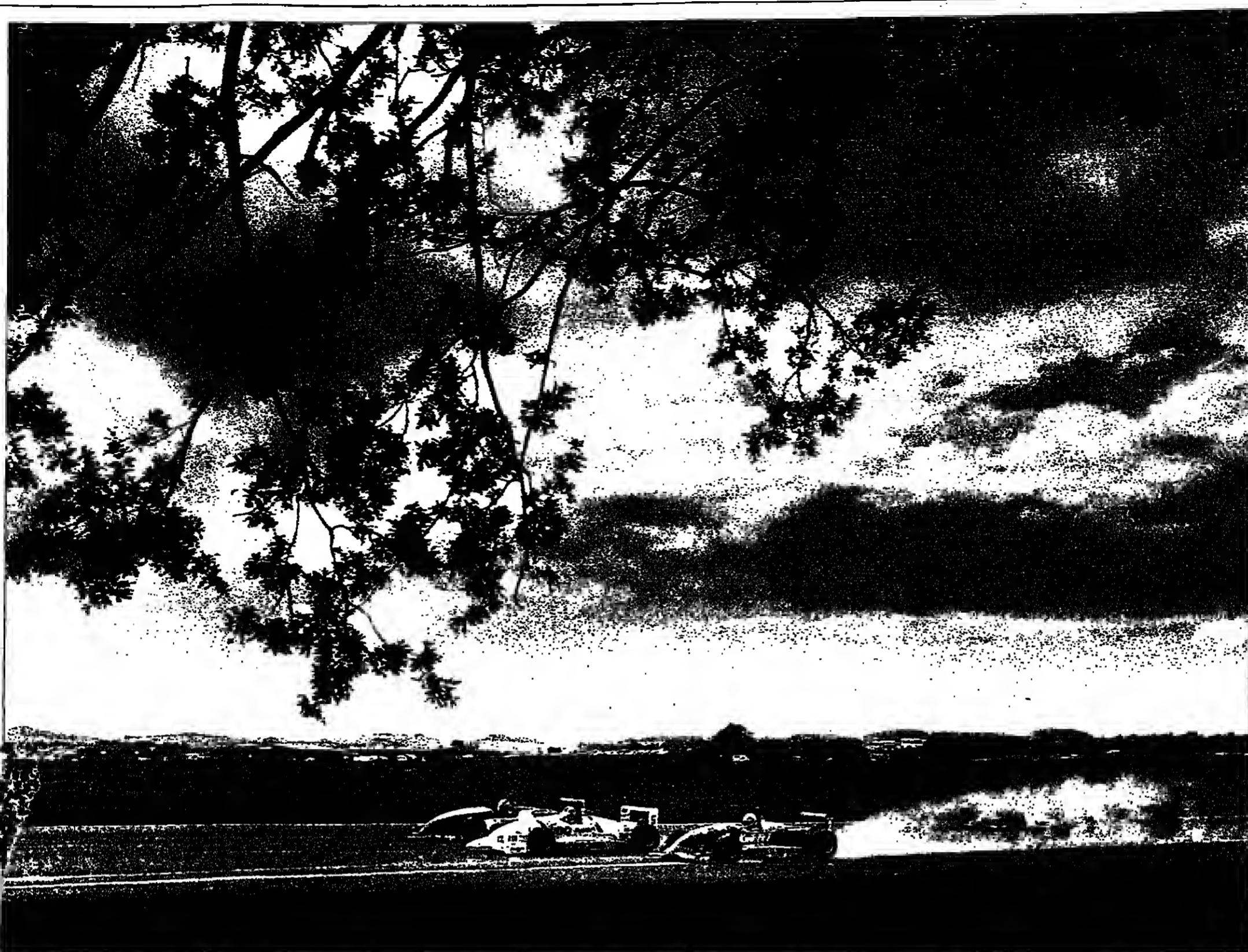
STALLERS 1ndf and 7f - outside rails remainder - stairs side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low 46 to 47, high for 77 to 125.

■ LIGHT-WEIGHTS: 1st 100m, 2nd 100m, 3rd 100m, 4th 100m.

■ COULD WIN: On 100m of track of 1,400. Weighted starting station (service from London, Cheveux Cross) applies to course. ADMISSION: Club 512 (1ndf-free); Tattersalls 2.10; CAR PARK: Free; Course Enclosure 54, plus 54 for each occupied.

# sport



Driving reign: Oliver Gavin (centre) on his way to winning the British Formula Three Championship by finishing second in the final race at Thruxton yesterday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

## A formula for success and acrimony

Whatever else has been passed down the motor racing ranks one vital lesson has been learned above all others. This is, of course, that no event should take place without a simmering row before, after or preferably both.

The names of Schumacher and Hill were heavy in the air at the Thruxton circuit yesterday, though neither of the grand prix combatants was present.

They were invoked frequently if reluctantly, reference to Oliver Gavin and Ralph Firman, the young men involved in a gripping climax to the Formula Three season.

Formula Three is a junior sibling of Formula One in that the cars and

any attendant blondes are probably both a little less racy. Its drivers frequently graduate to the grand prix circuit - J J Lehto and the great Ayrton Senna are both former champions, for instance - and they do not come much better at this stage in their lives than Firman and Gavin.

As they arrived on the grid yes-

terday for the 18th and final time of the year they were locked not only on identical points but also in the sort of dispute which has been an integral part of the grand prix circuit for a decade. It overshadowed the race. When Gavin, 23, took third place on the grid and Firman, 20, could manage only sixth all who suppose that motor racing was perfectly all right

Stephen Brenkley witnesses the climax to a contest as bitterly contested as any grand prix

without any acrimony must have hoped that it would stay that way. Firman, a wonderfully fast racer whose father has manufactured more racing cars than anybody else in the world, has been in trouble lately with the authorities. A few races ago he was penalised 10 seconds for an infringement in a race he won. It cost him several places but also the stewards upheld his appeal against the clerk of the course's decision. Gavin's team then decided to appeal the appeal.

The RAC, no less, is due to judge on this early next month, which is perhaps not unlike getting Lord's to decide the destination of the Eain Clarkson Trophy for county cricket's second teams in the event of a fall-out over rates. Since then Firman has had two separate endorsements on his licence for spots out on the circuits, one of them with his close rival.

If Gavin, who was runner-up two years ago, could finish ahead of Firman yesterday the appeal would have no significance. There was no worry. Gavin romped it. He tucked into third place throughout his drive which was entirely bereft of risks. Fir-

man, who had led the championship for most of the way, could make no impression. He knew it was up for him on the first of the 20 laps.

The young man who was born to the sport though he has achieved what he has because of abundant natural talent, had won six races this season. The number was never going to be increased.

"I did all I could do," he said, dejected but not angry and certainly in no mood to argue with Gavin's right to the title. "We were off the pace all day and certainly none of the other business affected me. You can't let it. I was totally focused."

There spoke a fellow going places and quickly.

Gavin took the podium alongside the man who actually won yesterday's race, Warren Hughes, a 23-year-old from Newcastle. Hughes has been driving for years without having the deserved patronage necessary to open the doors to any Formula One cockpit. He has adopted a neat line in gry humour to help him. As he did not get up before 11 in the morning, he said, there was no point in the motor racing boss, Ron Dennis, ringing him up early in the morning.

It was perhaps Hughes' sort of luck that in his moment of triumph at the season's end he was edged out by the rivalry between Gavin and Firman. Gavin even had a better way with spraying the champagne.

## Vourliotis out in the cold

### Basketball

Within a week of playing in the European Championships, England's Plutie Vourliotis is back on the market after being released by a Budweiser League club for the second time in a month, writes Duncan Hooper.

Leicester City Riders, lacking height and still with an American slot to fill after releasing the injured Dave Willard, could move quickly for the off. Six Vourliotis after their 82-65 League defeat at Manchester Giants on Saturday.

Vourliotis, thrust into action in England's defeat against Estonia last week, was released by

### Handball

the league champions, Sheffield Sharks, at the start of the season when they signed 6ft 10in Jason Crump. Birmingham Bullets snapped up Vourliotis, but he was squeezed out again when they signed the 6ft 9in England international Trevor Gordon.

Gordon, playing his first game in six weeks, scored 18 points on his Bullets debut in the 110-66 demolition of Duxford Panthers at the weekend.

The outstanding individual performance came from Chris Fite, who scored 45 points for London Leopards, including five three-pointers, in their 93-91 overtime victory against Derby Storm on Friday.

### Athletics

GERMANY MIDLAND RUN (Covington): Black 1; Kamui (Kent) 26m 18sec; 2 A Pearson (Longwood) 26.35; 3 B Stance (Bolton) 25.92; 4 J Moore (Bolton) 25.02.

WOMEN: 1 L McColgan (Dundee Hawkhill) 33.26; 2 K Naessens (Ireland) 33.28; 3 K McColgan (Dundee Hawkhill) 33.46; 4 S Heazell (Aintree) 34.11; 5 Thompson (Bolton) 34.59.

PEKING MARATHON: Men 1: Wang Xianfu (China) 2:29.29; 3:29.30; Women 1: Fan Xianjun (China) 2:30.02; 2:30.39; 3:29.40; 4:30.41.

PEKING MARATHON: Men 1: Wang Xianfu (China) 2:29.29; 3:29.30; Women 1: Fan Xianjun (China) 2:30.02; 2:30.39; 3:29.40.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 100m 10.21-22; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2:16.32; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2:16.32; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2:16.32.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 200m 21.6-22; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2:16.32; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2:16.32; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2:16.32.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 400m 44.2-45.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 44.2-45.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 44.2-45.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 44.2-45.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 800m 1:56.2-1:57.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1:56.2-1:57.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1:56.2-1:57.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1:56.2-1:57.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 1500m 3:46.2-3:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 3:46.2-3:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3:46.2-3:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3:46.2-3:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 3000m 8:16.2-8:17.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 8:16.2-8:17.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 8:16.2-8:17.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 8:16.2-8:17.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 5000m 13:46.2-13:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 13:46.2-13:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 13:46.2-13:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 13:46.2-13:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 10000m 27:46.2-27:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 27:46.2-27:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 27:46.2-27:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 27:46.2-27:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 15000m 44:46.2-45:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 44:46.2-45:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 44:46.2-45:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 44:46.2-45:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 30000m 78:46.2-79:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 78:46.2-79:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 78:46.2-79:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 78:46.2-79:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 50000m 137:46.2-138:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 137:46.2-138:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 137:46.2-138:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 137:46.2-138:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 100000m 274:46.2-275:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 274:46.2-275:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 274:46.2-275:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 274:46.2-275:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 150000m 448:46.2-449:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 448:46.2-449:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 448:46.2-449:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 448:46.2-449:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 200000m 624:46.2-625:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 624:46.2-625:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 624:46.2-625:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 624:46.2-625:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 250000m 792:46.2-793:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 792:46.2-793:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 792:46.2-793:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 792:46.2-793:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 300000m 960:46.2-961:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 960:46.2-961:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 960:46.2-961:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 960:46.2-961:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 350000m 1128:46.2-1129:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1128:46.2-1129:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1128:46.2-1129:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1128:46.2-1129:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 400000m 1300:46.2-1301:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1300:46.2-1301:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1300:46.2-1301:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1300:46.2-1301:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 450000m 1472:46.2-1473:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1472:46.2-1473:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1472:46.2-1473:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1472:46.2-1473:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 500000m 1644:46.2-1645:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1644:46.2-1645:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1644:46.2-1645:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1644:46.2-1645:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 550000m 1816:46.2-1817:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1816:46.2-1817:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1816:46.2-1817:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1816:46.2-1817:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 600000m 1988:46.2-1989:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 1988:46.2-1989:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1988:46.2-1989:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 1988:46.2-1989:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 650000m 2160:46.2-2161:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2160:46.2-2161:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2160:46.2-2161:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2160:46.2-2161:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 700000m 2332:46.2-2333:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2332:46.2-2333:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2332:46.2-2333:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2332:46.2-2333:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 750000m 2504:46.2-2505:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2504:46.2-2505:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2504:46.2-2505:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2504:46.2-2505:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 800000m 2676:46.2-2677:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2676:46.2-2677:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2676:46.2-2677:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2676:46.2-2677:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 850000m 2848:46.2-2849:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 2848:46.2-2849:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2848:46.2-2849:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 2848:46.2-2849:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 900000m 3020:46.2-3021:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 3020:46.2-3021:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3020:46.2-3021:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3020:46.2-3021:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 950000m 3192:46.2-3193:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 3192:46.2-3193:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3192:46.2-3193:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3192:46.2-3193:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 1000000m 3364:46.2-3365:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 3364:46.2-3365:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3364:46.2-3365:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3364:46.2-3365:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 1050000m 3536:46.2-3537:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 3536:46.2-3537:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3536:46.2-3537:47.2; 10 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3536:46.2-3537:47.2.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Men's 1100000m 3708:46.2-3709:47.2; 6 V Kotay (Sparta) 3708:46.2-3709:47.2; 8 D V Kotay (Sparta) 3708:46.2-3709:47.2





FOOTBALL: Bryan Robson's team prepare for new arrival with sixth consecutive win while Leeds wilt under Wright's excellence

## Hignett calm under pressure

GUY HODGSON

Sheffield Wednesday 0  
Middlesbrough 1

Teesside, maybe a region in waiting, but Middlesbrough are doing well enough even before the arrival of Juninho. The Brazilian, who is due today, will find his new club in fourth place in the Premiership and six points behind the leaders, Newcastle.

This is Middlesbrough's sixth successive victory and, ironically, the goal that secured it was scored by the player likely to step down when Juninho's work permit comes through, Craig Hignett. He may be the man whose feet are tipping least to the samba beat but he had sufficient disregard for the pressure on his first-team place to calmly score a penalty, which was just as well as a goal from open play became more remote as the match went on. Even the 68th-minute penalty had an element of controversy about it because, although Lee Briscoe clearly handled the ball, Wednesday believed there had been a push on Peter Atherton by Steve Vickery earlier in the move. There was also the question of intent.

"It was certainly debatable," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said. "To intentionally handle you have to have eyes on the ball and he was looking away. His hand went up to protect him from a challenge from the side. Unless he is very clever I don't think it was a penalty."

It was a frustrating game all round for Wednesday, who deteriorated like the evening light. At first, prompted by Chris Waddle, they stretched the Middlesbrough back five that is as pliable as stone. Later they bunched off this rearguard. Waddle, a tired and slightly forlorn figure on the right wing at the end, epitomised their whole day.

It was Waddle who was a

dominant figure of the first half. In the 13th minute his wonderfully weighted pass split Middlesbrough's defence and almost allowed Mark Bright a shot at goal. Five minutes before the interval he delivered a cross from the right which floated into Boro's six-yard box and Bright should have done better with his header.

In between Mark Pemberton had Gary Walsh diving to his right with a 30-yard free-kick while at the other end Neil Cox deceived Briscoe with a flick of his heel and there was denied only by Kevin Pressman's save.

Middlesbrough had been muted before the interval but a knee injury to Ian Agee Fiorito worked in their favour because the substitute, John Hendrie, was better suited to the quick raids launched by Nick Barnby and Hignett.

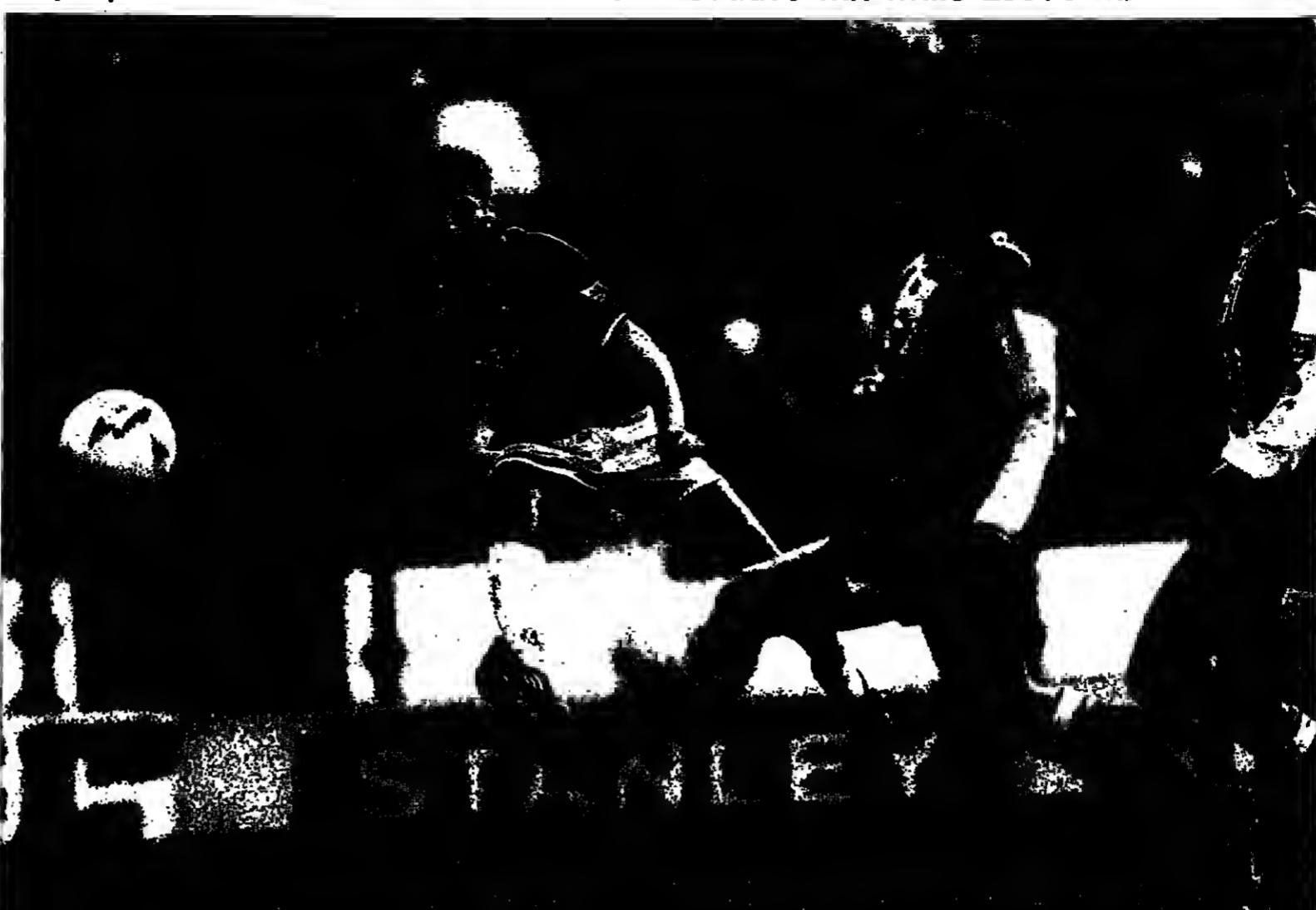
After the goal – the first this season not to be either scored or made by Barnby – Middlesbrough could use Wednesday's urgency for an equaliser. Hendrie had two chances but the closest they came to adding to their lead came after 71 minutes when Cox headed on.

Andy Sinton, in his first league start of the season, made frequent inroads on the left but the final ball was not good enough and the only real worry for Middlesbrough was when the former England winger went down in the area under a challenge from Cox. Television evidence suggested the referee's decision to play on was the right one.

"We had enough possession," Pleat said, "to manoeuvre a scoring chance, but we didn't." It is becoming a familiar story for Wednesday.

**Sheffield Wednesday 1-0-2** (Penalty 1-0); Pressman; Harton, Atherton, Vickery, Briscoe; Waddle, Fiorito, Hignett, Hendrie, Sutcliffe, Bright; Briscoe (substitutes: Vickers, Whynes, Morris, Hendrie, Pollard, Mullan, Fiorito); (penalty takers: Moore, Leslie).

Referee: G. Atkinson (Nottingham).



Off the ground: Middlesbrough's Neil Cox gets in a shot against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

## Arsenal demonstrate their new image

GUY HODGSON

Leeds United 0  
Arsenal 3

It is never easy to watch the tenets of life being overturned. Facts are exposed as falsehoods, beliefs dismissed as superstition, pillars of faith are uprooted and demolished. So spare a moment for the bewildered Arsenal supporter.

Gunnerism was simple. For years the creed was to enjoy your team being hated. Absorb pressure and then strike, the later the goal the better.

**Sheffield Wednesday 1-0-2** (Penalty 1-0); Pressman; Harton, Atherton, Vickery, Briscoe; Waddle, Fiorito, Hignett, Hendrie, Sutcliffe, Bright; Briscoe (substitutes: Vickers, Whynes, Morris, Leslie).

Referee: G. Atkinson (Nottingham).

Arsenal had two functions in life, to invoke universal dislike and to bore.

Which makes Saturday a difficult day to explain away.

Arsenal were not just good, they were excellent. Entertaining, too. In fact, short of Newcastle at their Gimola and Beardsley best, it is hard to imagine any other Premiership team surpassing them on the evidence of this. Change indeed.

This match established Arsenal as 24-carat championship contenders in the same way it blew a huge hole in Leeds hopes of replicating their 1992 success. By comparison to the dizzying switches in play before them, the home team, admittedly without the injured Gary McAllister, looked one

dimensional and laboured. Even Tony Yeboah was anonymous apart from a half chance in the 13th minute that he looped over.

Leeds had one muzzled potential match-winner while Arsenal had three unbridled forces of inspiration in Ian Wright, Dennis Bergkamp and Paul Merson, all of whom scored. By the end the scoreline could have read 0-5 although, to be fair to Leeds, two late headers for Brian Deane might have made it 2-3, too.

The turning point was Merson's goal in the 44th minute. John Lukic made a hash of clearing a back pass and from 35 yards Merson beat his former colleague with a low shot that undermined his speed of thought.

Bergkamp was equally nimble in mind and limb to flick in Steve Bould's header 10 minutes after half-time but the pick was Wright's, a chip of such delicate precision Ernie Tilse would have been delighted to have executed with his sand wedge at Wentworth yesterday.

"It was executed brilliantly," Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, said, "an absolute gem. He's a player who can make something out of nothing. Terry Venables has his own opinions about players but if he had Ian in his England squad, even on the beach, he would have someone who can do the unexpected. Maybe pull off a ruse."

Rioch was extolling Wright's individualism yet, if his

partnership with Bergkamp that excites him. "They have struck up a tremendous rapport," he said. "In training, during the week, they spend time together. One Wright is louder than the other but they hit it off."

Just as Rioch's team appear to be hitting it off with the neutral, there were still chants of "Boring, boring Arsenal" on Saturday, only this was coming from their own fans. But, then, they are having to make huge adjustments.

**Sheffield Wednesday 1-0-2** (Penalty 1-0); Pressman; Harton, Atherton, Vickery, Briscoe; Waddle, Fiorito, Hignett, Hendrie, Sutcliffe, Bright; Briscoe (substitutes: Vickers, Whynes, Morris, Leslie).

Referee: G. Atkinson (Nottingham).

## Le Tissier losing his allure

JON CULLEY

Blackburn Rovers 2  
Southampton 1

For once, words were unnecessary. Matthew Le Tissier, the man who wants to stay where he is, did not need to spell it out. His performance spoke for him; and the message to potential suitors was clear: do not waste your money.

It was hardly intentional, of course, but, had Southampton's gifted captain set out deliberately to dampen Jack Walker's enthusiasm, he could not have been more effective. If the gossip is to be believed, Walker would happily spend £10m on bringing Le Tissier to Ewood Park but on this showing he might consider 10 pence too much.

Last season, on the same ground, Le Tissier scored a goal to rival any of those in Tony Yeboah's current repertoire.

raising the clamour for Terry Venables to build England's future around him to deafening levels. But this Le Tissier was the one who sinks around the periphery of the play, shedding his cloak of anonymity only once in a while. The England coach might ask Blackburn for a video, ready for the next time someone says he is a fool to leave him out.

The man of this match, ironically, was a Norwegian, one of those whom England, without Le Tissier, did not have the craft to beat in Oslo last week. Lars Bohinen could not have cut a more contrasting figure. With a spring in his step and purpose in his stride, Blackburn's new arrival from Nottingham Forest involved himself in everything, offering a clever pass here, a change of direction there – quite the variety the champions' midfield has often lacked.

Troubled, apparently, neither by the bitterness he left behind in Nottingham over his cut, Le Tissier undisturbed also.

price transfer nor by the shadow cast over it by the suspended Rune Haage, Bohinen even managed a debut goal, heading in Stuart Rixley's 19th-minute cross. Scoring was never his forte at Forest, where 64 League appearances brought only seven goals, but that may change now.

"He told me he wanted to play, how he likes to get forward," Ray Harford, his new manager, said afterwards. "That suited us because we have needed to get midfield players into the box, to dislodge defenders, to give them something to think about other than the front players."

Bohinen saw it that Billy McKinlay, Blackburn's £1.75m signing from Dundee United, stayed on the bench. Harford had planned to swap one new boy for the other in the second half but dared not take Bohinen off. "I'd have been lynched," he said.

For different reasons, Dave Merrington was inclined to leave Le Tissier undisturbed also.

Referee: M. Reed (Birmingham).

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS

**FA Carling Premiership**

**Yesterday**

Sheffield Wed (0) 0 Middlesbrough (0) 1  
22.10.95  
Hignett per 00

Aston Villa 0 Chelsea 1

Blackburn 2 Southampton 1

Leeds 0 Liverpool 3

Leeds 0 Coventry 0

Man Utd 1 M. City 0

QPR 0 Newcastle 0

Southampton 0 Nottingham 0

Watford 0 10.10.95

Leeds 0 10.10.95

